



Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

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Thursday
4 April 1991

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Burundi

Government Closes Algiers Embassy To Save Funds

EA0404101091 Bujumbura Domestic Service in French
1800 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Summary] The Government of Burundi has closed its embassy in Algiers, Algeria, for cost reduction reasons.

Cameroon

Students Demonstrate for National Conference

AB0304141491 Paris AFP in French 1940 GMT
2 Apr 91

[Text] Yaounde, 2 Apr (AFP)—About 1,000 students from Yaounde University staged a march—past this afternoon in districts near the university campus to press for the holding of a national conference, according to eyewitness reports. Although the march was banned by the authorities, the demonstrators, who marched in three different directions, carried placards calling for a national conference and general amnesty for all political detainees. Several roadblocks were mounted at the various entry points to the campus.

Antiriot policemen dispersed a group of students at Mokolo Market in Yaounde, while gendarmes combed the campus and arrested about 10 demonstrators, according to witnesses. No clashes were, however, reported between students and the police. According to the same sources, no one was injured. Calm was restored by this evening but the law and order forces remained on campus.

Events Surrounding Demonstration

AB0304193691 Yaounde Domestic Service in French
1900 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] There has been more fright than injury at Yaounde University. The demonstration announced for this afternoon did not assume the expected dimensions anticipated by the organizers. It must be recalled that it was a question of a planned march to call for a national conference and a general amnesty. This demonstration, however, is illegal. The chancellor of the University of Yaounde made it a point to reiterate this in a message in which he called for a sense of maturity and calm on the part of students.

A group of students representing the largest majority of hard-working students of Mboikele campus met this morning in Yaounde. At the end of the meeting, a letter was addressed to the head of state in which students of the three faculties reiterated their support for the head of state and dissociated themselves from this afternoon's demonstration organized by a handful of individuals highly unmindful of their future at Yaounde University. (Francois Manfo Jones) has just returned from the university campus and testifies. This is a story of a

demonstration whose motives do not tally with the demands that were put forward:

[[Jones]] At Yaounde University today, we must note the acts, the effects of other acts, but also what did not take place. The mass demonstration that was announced, for instance, did not take place. Instead, there were some more or less noisy gatherings of students, of course, but mainly of curious idlers who came there as usual on their idle rounds. We looked hard for that protest march, but we did not find it—not on the university campus, anyway.

And even if there had been any demonstrations in the neighboring streets, it would be sad for anybody to say he can swear with hand on heart that students of the University of Yaounde were involved. But where were these people from? How is it that suddenly the [word indistinct] are leaving the ranks? Let us go back to Tuesday, 26 March 1991, that is, six days ago. Let us enter Amphitheater No. 1001, where first-year economics students are attending a lecture given by Mr. Ayem. The atmosphere is tense, unhappy words are heard here and there, and then, the unexpected occurs. Poor Mr. Ayem receives some blows. He is even wounded by a group of students, furious for God knows what, why, and by whom.

End of the first scene. Second scene, with a different backdrop: We are in Etoumbe residential district in the home of young Epopa Bekala, first-year economics student at the University of Yaounde. After an afternoon of disrupted classes at the university campus, Epopa Bekala is tired. He goes to nearby Mpoungui River and has a refreshing bath. He feels better and eats roasted fish served by his elder sister and, satiated, [words indistinct] calls for help. At 0100, he lies down and falls asleep. He is understood. Two hours later, toward 0300, he is heard yelling again: My God, My God! Neighbors rush in. Epopa is in a bad state. They went for his sister. She was the same one who served him the roasted fish. The unlucky sister will not see her brother alive again. Epopa dies.

Third scene, again at the university campus: Students are angered over the death of their colleague during the evening. Lecturers at the Faculty of Law and Economic Sciences of the University of Yaounde are fulminating. Their security is no longer guaranteed and they demand that students involved in molesting their colleague, Mr. Ayem, be punished. They requested this in a letter addressed the next day, Thursday, 28 March, to the chancellor of the University of Yaounde. The chancellor accepts their demands.

Then things move very fast, until total confusion is reached. Tracts call for a demonstration to demand a general amnesty law and a national conference. Does this follow the unfortunate incident at Amphitheater No. 1001 a few days earlier? Some people, thinking they are more original, assert that the students are demonstrating against the poor marks given by their lecturers. And yet

from credible university sources, no marks from the last exams had been announced at the time when the last incidents started at the university campus. How can one protest against something that is unknown? A mystery.

As for those who want to use the death of young Epopa Bekala to clarify things, they do not know, or pretend not to know, two things: First, that the father of young Epopa Bekala died a short while earlier, a little over a year ago in Yebekolo village, not far from Mbessa, in Mbarn Department under similar circumstances as those of his son a few days ago. For these reasons, the mother of the deceased student deemed a postmortem examination to be useless. Certainly, this is a mysterious death, but not a violent one. Well, note well that young Epopa Bekala did not receive any blows during the events at Amphitheatre No. 1001 on 26 March. There is a lack of coherence in everything that followed.

'Violent' Clashes Erupt; Biya in France

*AB0304142291 Paris AFP in French 1231 GMT
3 Apr 91*

[Text] Yaounde, 3 Apr (AFP)—Violent clashes erupted this morning at Yaounde Central Market between the police and illicit street vendors, leaving several injured and causing considerable material damage, according to eyewitness reports. Tension was still relatively high late this morning in the city, which was paralyzed as reinforcement gendarmes combed the city center.

The disturbances erupted when policemen besieged the Central Market in the heart of the capital early this morning, using waterhoses to drive away the street vendors, some of whose goods were confiscated, according to witnesses. The vendors immediately formed a common front and attacked a passing Cameroon Urban Transport Company (Sotuc) bus, and several other vehicles which they set on fire. According to the same witnesses, five persons were injured in the scuffle.

Gendarmerie and police reinforcements were immediately dispatched to the scene, while an antiriot police helicopter continuously overflew the city center. Government agencies were closed down, and all buses returned to their main stations.

These incidents follow yesterday's march-past staged by Yaounde University students to press for the holding of a national conference, and for general amnesty for all political detainees.

Meanwhile, Cameroonian Head of State Paul Biya arrived in France yesterday for a working visit.

Yaounde 'Calm' 3 Apr

*AB0304190591 Yaounde Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 3 Apr 91*

[Text] Calm has reportedly returned to Yaounde after violent demonstrations this morning that were quelled

by the forces of law and order. The manifestations resulted in the destruction by fire of a new Sotuc bus, a new telephone booth, two [words indistinct], stores and property, including a (?Sofecam bank). CRTV [Cameroon Radio and Television] eyewitness reports said there were two categories of demonstrators involved: people laid off from work and street hawkers, some of whom were arrested.

Unconfirmed reports say a tract was put into circulation calling for the demonstration that fell into the hands of the law, who then headed off the manifestations. Today's disturbance comes on the heels of a demonstration in March by University of Yaounde students calling for a national conference and a general amnesty.

Further on Security Situation

*AB0304191091 Yaounde Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 3 Apr 91*

[From the "News Focus" program]

[Text] As you must have heard in the news, the forces of law and order have restored calm to the streets of Yaounde occupied this morning by demonstrators. Chris Enorben was among a team of journalists who went around Yaounde this evening to assess the prevailing situation in the capital:

[Begin Enorben recording] To say life has gone on as usual in Yaounde this evening will be inaccurate, inaccurate because of the unusual and massive presence on the streets of the forces of law and order equipped with antiriot gear. The forces of law and order came in this morning to disperse a group of demonstrators, who apparently took to the streets after the march by university students yesterday to call for a national conference and general amnesty aborted.

The presence of the forces of law and order was especially made imperative when the demonstrators opted for acts of vandalism like burning a bus of the National Transport Company, Sotuc; two express lottery stands; and placing a grenade in the heart of the commercial center, a grenade which fortunately did not go off. It was (?later on), at about 5:30 PM, diffused by the forces of law and order, causing slight damage to the windows of two shops.

In town this evening, most shops and bars were closed and the usually busy streets were practically deserted. This, as our investigations revealed, could be explained for the shops and banks by a fear of falling victims to acts of vandalism and for the absence of people on the streets, because shops and banks were closed. In order to diffuse the grenade, some streets had to be cordoned off, (?forcing) pedestrians and returning workers to use back streets.

But all the same, some people could be seen going about carrying out their normal activity. Police have also been conducting routine checks of official papers, allowing all

those who can identify themselves to go about their business. So if you have got to go through town today, there is no need of fear or to panic. Just keep your ID card handy. Meanwhile, the forces of law and order are keeping watch over commercial buildings to preempt any attempt by bandits to take advantage of the situation. [end recording]

Reportage on President Biya's Visit to France
WA0204195891

For reportage on the 2-day visit by President Paul Biya to Paris, including reports on his talks with French President Francois Mitterrand and other officials, please see the France section of the 3 April West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Congo

Further Reportage on National Conference

Commission Formed To Probe Wealth

*AB0204214591 Paris AFP in French 1754 GMT
30 Mar 91*

[Text] Brazzaville, 30 Mar (AFP)—Participants in the national conference, which has been going on for more than one month now in the Congo, have arrived at a consensus on the creation of a new commission to take inventory of all property that was fraudulently acquired by former dignitaries, it was learned today in Brazzaville. Delegates were also expected to come to an agreement soon on the methods to obtain a freeze on and repatriation of illegally acquired funds in foreign banks.

Mr. Jacques Okoko, a representative of the Lawyer's Association of Congo, recommended that an organ be established to work out arrangements with Western countries for freezing Congolese assets abroad while waiting for light to be cast on some cases of embezzlement of public funds. Five experts have been designated to study these arrangements.

The repatriation of these funds should enable Congo to cope with its external debt of over 1.2 trillion CFA francs (FrF 2.4 billion), it was estimated in the corridors of the conference. In December, 1990, the World Bank suspended all loans to Congo for nonpayment of debt arrears owed to private banks.

On the other hand, Mr. Velih Dambenzet, leader of the Democratic Forum for the Republic (FDR, opposition), suggested that agreements between Congo and Western oil companies must be revised, for, according to him, these agreements are too heavily weighted in favor of the Western companies.

Congo produces over 8 million tonnes of crude oil per annum, over 50 percent of which is produced by Elf-Congo Oil Company. The proposed oil revenue for 1991

is expected to exceed 100 billion CFA francs. Oil revenues provide more than 70 percent of Congo's budget: revenues, which are mainly fiscal.

Concerning the organs to be set up after the national conference, several delegates recommended creation of a higher council of the Republic and an organ to follow up on the execution of the national conference's decisions. They suggested that all political police services be dissolved and legislative and presidential elections organized during a transition period not to exceed 12 months.

The deliberations of the national conference, which were suspended today, will resume on 1 April with the continuation of general policy statements.

Officials Banned From Leaving Country

*AB0304131891 Dakar PANA in French 1250 GMT
31 Mar 91*

[Text] Brazzaville, 31 Mar (PANA)—The Congo national conference presidium has decided to ban all political, military, and administrative officials from leaving the national territory, Bernard Makaya, the conference rapporteur, reported. The regulation, which was announced orally last week, has been adopted by the conference presidium. The regulation will be published in the official gazette of Congo in accordance with the procedural rules of this sovereign conference which is free to make decisions without referring to the head of state.

The first victim of this decision is Pascal Gayama, secretary of state for foreign affairs and cooperation, who was forced to disembark from his plane yesterday evening to obtain an exit permit. Mr. Gayama was on his way to Libreville, Gabon, where a summit of the Economic Community of Central African States will be held this week.

The measure, which is aimed at preventing deliberate absence from the country of officials likely to be summoned to appear before the national conference, might even affect President Denis Sassou-Nguesso should he plan to participate in the Libreville summit, it is noted in Brazzaville.

Furthermore, the conference has decided to postpone "sine die" a football match slated for today between the "Diables Noirs" and "Etoile du Congo," the two most important teams in the country, for security reasons. The presidium believes that people are likely to capitalize upon the ethnic profile of the two teams for political reasons. The first club comprises southerners, while the second comprises northerners.

"Any pretext could be used to make this conference a failure, and this sporting encounter would favor our country's 'wizards' who would create conditions aimed at imposing a chief on the Congolese people," stated Monsignor Ernest Nkombo, the conference chairman,

who obtained the consensus of the conference to postpone the match. It will be recalled that acts of violence, unfortunately, occurred in the past during matches played by these two teams.

Meanwhile, Antoine Gayot, leader of an opposition party, "The National Conscience," has been disowned by his party because of serious assassination claims weighing heavily against him. Mr. Gayot reportedly executed three Congolese senior officials in 1965. A witness said he saw Mr. Gayot on a day that year, returning from his office with soiled clothes and a bloodstained dagger, and saying in reference to the victims: "Some people have paid for their mistakes." Mr. Gayot, who has been demoted to the rank of member of the National Conscience Party delegation, was placed at the disposal of the conference by his party to answer these charges.

The deliberations of the conference were suspended for Easter Sunday, [31 March], and will continue tomorrow with the hearing of about 20 statements by the remaining parties and associations. Debates on the conference agenda are expected to begin on Wednesday, 3 April.

* President's Concessions Fail To Quell Unrest

91AF0797A Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE ECONOMIQUE
in French Feb 91 p 50

[Article by C.C.: "Uneasy Waiting"; first paragraph is JEUNE AFRIQUE ECONOMIQUE lead]

[Text] The national conference will take place 25 February. Until then, the crisis continues.

It is no use. Whatever the gestures of good intent and the social welfare measures announced, President Denis Sassou-Nguesso has been unable to restore calm or get the country back to work since last December, when he was obliged to approve the holding of a national conference.

Despite the force of opposition calls for this national conference, the date of which was set by the president in his traditional New Year's message, it is not enough. The current dispute centers around the date of the conference, set for 25 February 1991. The opposition and the Congolese Trade Union Confederation [CSC] consider this too late. Once again, the president's approach to democracy is under protest.

Indeed, it is hard to understand the logic of appointing a government (initially called the "transition government") of national union and opening [of the political spectrum] before the national conference is held. "Is it possible to speak of a broader political spectrum," the opposition asks, "when, at the same time, the implementation of the legalization of political parties and groups, scheduled for 1 January, is being delayed as a result of conditions established by the law on the creation and financing of parties?" "Requiring the payment of 1 million CFA [African Financial Community] francs to register them and requiring

their founding members to come from the five regions of the country are only selective, unethical measures," it declared in early January.

The task of the new prime minister and head of government, Brigadier General Louis Sylvain Goma, is a delicate one. He has the dual, delicate mission of strengthening a discredited regime and managing a situation of social crisis in which demonstrations of discontent are steadily increasing. Each time, the demands are the same: higher wages.

The state has approved them, but sooner or later it will have to pay the bill. Yet, for the moment, the Congo's moneylenders show few signs of flying to the rescue of a regime enmeshed in a two-faced policy. The suspension of eight radio reporters accused of "encouraging striking" followed by its lifting a day later shows that the ruling class still has a long and highly perilous way to go on the road to democracy.

Gabon

* Socialist Leaders on Goals, PDG Relations

91AF0798B Libreville L'UNION in French 5 Feb 91 p 6

[Interview with Mapangou Mouceni Muetsa of the Association for Socialism in Gabon, APSG, and Dr. Serge Mba Bekale of the Gabonese Socialist Union, USG, by Annick Bouma and Dady Bouchard: "'We Hope To Attract All the Forces of the Left'; date and place not given]

[Text] After the formation of the new parliamentary group, we met with the political leaders of the two socialist parties of which it is composed. Mapangou Mouceni Muetsa for APSG and Dr. Serge Mba Bekale for USG agreed to answer our questions.

[L'UNION] What are your motivations?

[Muetsa] Even before the first round of the legislative elections, I was talking about the opposition's fragmentation in the face of our political adversary. Why have the APSG and the USG established a parliamentary group at this time? First of all, because for the first time we have a multiparty national assembly, and everyone knows there are groups within a legislature; these groups can only be established when they have something in common or when something brings them together. The APSG and the USG are both socialist by definition, and that is what we have in common.

[Bekale] The time has come for citizens like us who want to see real change to come together. This is a task on which we embarked long ago. What we stand for is unity of action and openness. We began with the parliamentary group, which has already worked together on several issues and that will continue its work. The socialist ideal is the principle we have in common.

[L'UNION] After the parliamentary group, will there be other initiatives?

[Bekale] There is the parliamentary group, which results from coordination between the two opposition political formations; in the communique, we have defined the aim and the objectives of this coordination and the method that will be used to carry it out. The purpose of coordinating is to create a credible, responsible political alternative that calls for change and an end to the old ways.

We reject both adventurism and covert action, that is the use of nondemocratic methods to change the situation. Our objectives are clear: we must consolidate and build on what we have already achieved since the National Conference and open up new paths to Gabonese democracy, so that certain things never happen again.

We must contribute to the nation's economic and social recovery, because we think that any worsening of the current deficit, any worsening of our country's plight, will certainly not be good for the disadvantaged. We are going to work tirelessly to create a political platform. We believe in unity of action and openness, so coordination is not exclusively for people like us who have a particular concept of socialism: we have said [we would welcome] all socialists who reject extremism.

[Muetsa] Socialists are not the only ones involved in building a democracy. There are other democrats devoted to freedom and social justice. Today we have, on one side, those who support the PDG [Gabonese Democratic Party], who have acquired certain habits and who now must gradually change. On the other side, there is the opposition, and within it are some adventurers, as well as others who are more responsible and who favor peaceful action.

[L'UNION] What about your credibility? What about opportunism?

[Muetsa] We have clearly stated our reasons for entering the national unity government. Within the national assembly we find there are parties that play a well-defined role. At our level, we exploit these differences. In politics, one has to be willing to take risks. You cannot look at the assembly and say everything it does is illegitimate. That is just eyewash. We are not opportunists.

In joining the government, we have taken the position that the country needed to be developed and led. It is the opportunists who always say bad things in an effort to make the government fall. The opposition today is even more disorganized than before.

[Bekale] We have no desire to see Gabon go through the kind of violent change taking place elsewhere. You have to be right there where the decisions are being made. And the Gabonese opposition has the best chance and potential to benefit from democratic alternation. It is thus to its advantage to be present everywhere, when our

country is going through a period of changes. We are entering the decade of great reforms. To create the conditions of a real alternative, we think the opposition must be on the scene, everywhere, to show the way and to say what it wants. To bring about fundamental change. That is what our two parties are trying to do.

[L'UNION] What would you say in conclusion?

[Muetsa] We have struggled to force the PDG to quit being antidemocratic. We call on the forces of the left to pull themselves together and work for a real alternative and real change. The Gabonese people want peace and well-being, health, schools, and social equity. The struggle is not over. Some opposition leaders, if they should come to power, might act just like those we have condemned. So we must always be vigilant and alert. We have started a group, and we appeal for support to everyone who is concerned about the future of Gabon.

[Bekale] The parliamentary group is in place, the coordination process is certainly going to be broadened, to take in more than the formations that created it: to bring together and unite the forces of a democratic Gabonese left. It is a force that stands for the happy medium, that rejects disorder and anarchy. We must build a democracy that has real content: unity of the Gabonese people, freedom of expression, work, and above all, a sharing of labor and the fruits of that labor.

* IMF Demands Accountability on Oil Revenue

91AF0798A Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE ECONOMIE
in French Feb 91 p 60

[Article by Christine Coste: "Black Gold: IMF Takes Harsh Stance"]

[Text] Gabon's providential oil manna is under close surveillance these days....

Relations between Gabon and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) are rocky these days. At the heart of the dispute: black gold. It has been known for years that oil manna was siphoned off into many official pockets, but in this time of economic and social crisis the loss is too great for the "superpoliceman" of international finance to continue turning a blind eye.

It is an unmentionable subject, an "affair of state," but the oil of Gabon—like that of Cameroon before it—has now come under microscopic scrutiny from the Fund, which has decided not to loosen its grip, no matter what the pressures.

It all began last April in Libreville. IMF experts, in trying to straighten out the 1990 budget bill in the wake of various social measures taken by the head of state in response to popular pressures, discovered that 15 billion CFA [African Financial Community] francs in export earnings was missing. High-level Gabonese officials, manifestly anxious to dissociate themselves from a political leadership under attack, put the experts on the trail

of the Gabonese State Petroleum Assistance Company (CAPEG), which is responsible for officially marketing 5 percent of the oil production owned by the state at Rabi Kounga, which at 145,000 tons is the nation's biggest oil field. After a brief initial investigation, the experts came to three conclusions. First of all, London-based CAPEG keeps the 5 percent for itself as operating expenses. Second, it actually does all the marketing for the state's 15-percent share. Third, proceeds from the sales are put into a French bank, in an account belonging to the office of the president.

The IMF minced no words in June when it came out with its decision: "It will be difficult to establish an IMF program without greater transparency in the petroleum sector." The report, communicated to the government of Casimir Oye Mba, suggested that the authorities "between now and September 1990 undertake an audit of the marketing channels for Gabonese crude, as well as a complete clarification of the financial flows pertaining thereto. In that connection, the role of all intermediaries should be cleared up in such a way as to ensure that all revenues from this sector inure to the benefit of the state treasury."

Returning to the Gabonese capital in October 1990, IMF experts found that nothing—nothing at all—had been done to implement these recommendations. Although the audit was a precondition for any adjustment program, neither general guidelines nor specific modalities had yet been defined. Worse, debate over the appropriateness of such an audit had generated serious dissension within Casimir Oye Mba's government, pitting those who favored greater transparency about oil-generated financial flows against those who believed the state should not have to reveal all its revenue sources.

For their part, the oil companies—Elf Gabon, state-owned Elf Aquitaine, and Shell Gabon—kept quiet, anxious to do nothing to upset their relations with the Gabonese Government, which had grown somewhat cool since the events at Port-Gentil. After all, Gabon still has vast unexploited petroleum resources, which should not be left to the American competition already on the scene.

On 9 October, the news hit. Quite unexpectedly, the Gabonese Government announced the sale—for \$300 million (75 billion CFA francs)—of 6.5 percent of its Rabi Kounga production to Amerada Hess, an American company mostly active in the North Sea and unknown anywhere in Africa. The transaction, concluded in the presence of U.S. Ambassador Keith Wauchope, remained secret for several days. The IMF itself only learned of it through a press release from the office of the president.

Considered by some as a means of circumventing IMF vigilance, by others as a way for the government to demonstrate independence vis-a-vis its oil partners, the sale will at all events help the treasury reduce its deficit, which amounts to 174 billion CFA francs. But over time the sale will significantly reduce the country's oil earnings.

In Washington, however, if only for the sake of improving ethical standards in the Gabonese economy, it is still deemed a point of honor to prove that an audit of CAPEG's oil-money flows is possible. The revelations and scandals involving prominent personalities that could result from the audit would be...purely secondary.

Rwanda

Cease-Fire Military Observers Meet in Zaire

EA0304174891 Kigali Domestic Service in French
1800 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] The meeting of the group of military observers in charge of supervising the cease-fire on the Rwandan-Ugandan border opened today in Goma, Zaire. Balthazar Nduwayezu has more details:

[Nduwayezu] It was within the framework of implementing the cease-fire agreement recently signed in N'sele, Zaire, between the Rwandan Government and the rebel [inkotanyi] Rwandan Patriotic Front that representatives of the group of officers who are to observe the implementation of the cease-fire met today in Goma, Zaire. One of the articles of the text says that a group of officers—15 each from Zaire, Burundi, and Uganda who will be joined by five from each of the conflicting parties—are to oversee respect for the cease-fire on both sides.

Apart from the Burundi officers, who have not yet arrived, the representatives of Zaire, Uganda, and Rwanda and one from the rebel front, who was waiting for his colleagues who were scheduled to arrive soon, met today under the chairmanship of General Hashim Mbita, who is the OAU deputy secretary general and representative of the organization's secretary general. According to reliable sources, the meeting, which was held in camera, reached a decision on the practical modalities for the deployment of the officers on the spot to oversee respect for the cease-fire. A good number of the participants would like them to be deployed as soon as possible. In view of the absence of some delegations, however, particularly that of Burundi, no decision has been made. [passage indistinct]

It is worth recalling that the Tanzanian officers who were mentioned in the N'sele document have not yet announced their acceptance to be part of the observer team. Apparently they are not awaited in Goma.

Rebels Said Jeopardizing Cease-Fire

EA0304172091 Kigali Domestic Service in French
0430 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] As part of the implementation of the clauses of the cease-fire treaty signed on 29 March 1991 in N'sele, Zaire, between the Rwandan Government and the Rwandan Patriotic Front [RPF], some of the representatives of the group of military cease-fire observers met yesterday in Goma [Zaire] with General Hashim Mbita, OAU deputy secretary general.

The RPF delegation members were not all present. The Burundian delegation was still missing. The Tanzanian delegation did not announce whether it would take part in the work of the meeting. The RPF, the most notable absentee, is still keeping people waiting at the Goma meeting. The RPF, however—and one has difficulty believing this—is still on the battlefield. And yet it was of its own free will that it signed the 29 March cease-fire agreement.

The cease-fire was due to take effect the same day at midnight. The rebels [inkotanyi] did not take long, and the following day, that is to say, Saturday, 30 March, they attacked the Ruhengeri region. The attack was repeated on Sunday, 31 March, and also yesterday morning. These RPF attacks, if they continue and if their leaders do not come to their senses, create a risk that the cease-fire will not be fruitful. In all cases, the population must remain always vigilant. They do not think that the cease-fire agreement automatically means the end of the war. Our hope is that the RPF will still respect what it signed in the presence of the mediator, Marshal Mobutu of Zaire.

Armed Forces 'in Total Control' of Borders

EA0304172291 Kigali Domestic Service in French
1115 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] The Rwandan Armed Forces are in total control of the national borders and (?did not) attack the positions of the Patriotic Front, which is stationed on the other side of the border. The minister in the Office of the President in charge of coordinating government activities, Enoce Ruhigira, with whom we spoke by telephone this morning, is categorical: The rebels [inkotanyi], who do not control any part of Rwandan territory, are now trying to provoke the Rwandan Armed Forces through clinical attacks, only to accuse us later of violating the 29 March cease-fire, thereby justifying a later massive attack, as one official of the Rwandan Patriotic Front, Patrick Mazimpaka, said yesterday in Brussels.

Such attacks took place in the Ruhengeri region the day after the signing of the N'sele cease-fire agreement, which was negotiated by the Zairian mediator, President Mobutu Sese Seko. They then moved on to the eastern region, to Rwempasha, which is on the Rwandan-Ugandan border. Yet the Zairian military delegation which visited the entire border from Kagitumba to Cyanika last Saturday as well as the head of the French

Defense Forces and the head of the Belgian military cooperation team in Rwanda, who also visited Mutara, saw for themselves that the rebels were not on Rwandan territory.

If these attacks persist and if the leaders of the Rwandan Patriotic Front do not return to reason, the cease-fire that was signed last week risks becoming unfruitful. Clearly, this is the aim behind the latest attack by the Rwandan Patriotic Front, which is trying to occupy part of Rwandan territory before the effective deployment of the neutral observers' group, which will oversee the implementation of the cease-fire. A meeting of the observers was planned this week in Zaire. But the Rwandan Patriotic Front seems (?not to want) the meeting to proceed smoothly, as its delegation in Goma is still incomplete.

Zaire

Bank Governor, Other Officials Appointed

AB0304144891 Dakar PANA in French 1522 GMT
21 Mar 91

[Text] Kinshasa, 31 Mar (PANA)—Professor Nyembo Shabani was nominated governor of the Bank of Zaire yesterday, following the formation of a new extended transitional government named the same day in the Zairian capital. Appointed several times to head economic ministries (national economy and industry, commerce, finance and budget, agriculture, state enterprises, vice prime minister), Mr. Nyembo now replaces Mr. Pay Pay wa Syakasighe, who was nominated to the same post a few years ago. He is assisted by two deputy governors: Mr. Gbendo, who has been confirmed; and Mawakani Samba, top executive at the Central Bank of Zaire, who has returned from Washington where he served two terms of office from 1986 to 1990 as administrator of the IMF's department for Indian Ocean and African Francophone and Lusophone countries.

Other decisions were made concerning the appointment or transfer of officials heading several state enterprises in the mining, finance, transport, and energy sectors. A former mines and energy minister, Mr. Umba Kyamitala, former managing director of the National Transport Office, has been transferred to head the General Quarries and Mines Company's operations service where he served as the first Zairian director general in 1973.

Ethiopia

EPLA Claims Victory in South Denakil

EA0304124091 (Clandestine) Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Tigrinya 0400 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Excerpt] The heroic Eritrean People's Liberation Army [EPLA] in south Denakil, 80 km northwest of Aseb, has destroyed six enemy brigades with some additional battalions during a massive attack on enemy forces at the Wadi front. The fighting started on 30 March and ended in victory yesterday, 2 April, after four days of fighting. Although we do not have the details, it is known that the Eritrean People's Liberation Front has seized much enemy property.

The six destroyed enemy brigades, and the additional battalions are the following: all four brigades—the 15th, 17th, 86th, and 105th—of the 17th Army Division; the 503d Brigade of the 5th Motorized Army Division; three battalions, two artillery battalions, one tank battalion, and one anti-aircraft battalion of the 5th Ground Force Army Division. [passage omitted]

Tigray Rebels Reportedly Poisoning Prisoners

EA0304151591 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 0930 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Excerpts] The Tigray People's Liberation Front, TPLF [Weyane] group, is killing our compatriots with poison. The TPLF, a creation of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front [Sha'biyyah], is poisoning compatriots in every place it has been in, particularly Gojam administrative region, according to eyewitnesses. Here is Negash Muhammad with the details:

[Negash] It is natural to suffer from hunger and thirst, but this is a light punishment for our compatriots in TPLF prisons, teacher Demeke Ketsela said. He added that the TPLF derives pleasure from human suffering. It gives out poisoned food. Those who eat the poisoned food to get relief from hunger die instantly. I myself have seen more than 30 people die from the poisoned food, said the teacher who escaped from the TPLF prison.

The 30 March edition of the daily ADDIS ZEMEN carries teacher Demeke Ketsela's eyewitness statement, together with photographs. According to teacher Demeke and other eyewitnesses of TPLF brutalities and atrocities, the TPLF, which talks about democracy, freedom, and peace, has not stopped at looting the country's historical antiquities, or plundering and burning the people's property. It has not stopped at cheating the people; it has not stopped at massacring those opposing it, and detaining Red Cross workers who distribute humanitarian aid, in contravention of international rules and conventions. It is killing Ethiopians by feeding them with poisoned food. Teacher Demeke Ketsela, who said he was among 300 prisoners sandwiched in two small rooms, explained that the TPLF combatants feed poison to Ethiopians they detain in

various places. They feed them poison as if they were rats. Some of the people become unconscious and some die immediately. This is TPLF democracy.

Demeke Ketsela, who graduated from Kotebe Teachers Training College near Addis Ababa and has been teaching at Meshenti primary and junior high school for the last two years, said that school property had been looted and most teachers detained. Meshenti is a small village 10 km outside Bahir Dar. According to teacher Demeke and others who were fortunate enough to escape from TPLF prisons the TPLF atrocities are agonizing. If those detained claim they are Ethiopians they are killed with poisoned food. [passage omitted]

Although the TPLF has established murder squads, looting groups, and ambush teams to subjugate the people to its cheap aims, it has not succeeded. The poisoning has aggravated the people's anger. The people have intensified their anti-TPLF struggle, says teacher Demeke.

Kenya

Minister Ayah Refutes Somali Premier Accusations

EA0304213591 Nairobi KTN Television in English 1800 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] The Government of Kenya has expressed concern over accusations leveled against Kenya by the new Somali regime. Reacting to remarks made by the new prime minister of Somalia, Omar Arteh Ghalib, in an interview he is reported to have given to the British Broadcasting Corporation, the government said the accusation lacked truth and validity. The new Somali prime minister is reported to have alleged that the Government of Kenya was assisting those fighting the regime by supplying them with arms and ammunition.

A statement from the minister for foreign affairs and international cooperation, Wilson Ndolo Ayah, refuted these claims. Ayah said the government takes exception to the unwarranted attack, saying it was tantamount to interference with Kenya's sovereignty. The minister said Kenya had been approached by several NGO's [nongovernmental organizations], including (?arms) of the UN, for clearance to enable them to fly to Somalia with the aim of assessing what relief aid would be necessary for the people of Somalia in the light of the war there. He said these agencies had been allowed to airlift food and medicine from Kenya to parts of Somalia. But at no time had the Government of Kenya sent food, medicine, or any other supplies, including arms and ammunition.

Ndolo Ayah said that the Government of Kenya had not and would not authorize any organization of persons to send ammunition or arms to any group in Somalia for whatever purpose. Those Somalis who have been allowed to enter Kenya have done so under the auspices of the UNHCR [UN High Commissioner for Refugees].

He said Kenya believes in the policy of good-neighborliness and noninterference and expected other countries to reciprocate.

Somali Refugees Allowed To Disembark at Mombasa

*EA0404104691 Nairobi KTN Television in English
1800 GMT 3 Apr 91*

[Text] More than 400 Somali refugees who have been living on boats at the old port of Mombasa were allowed to disembark today. The refugees, most of whom were women and children, arrived aboard two boats, MV (Fiber) and MV (Husnah), on Thursday and Saturday last week, but last weekend an assistant minister for information and broadcasting, Shariff Nassir, decried the bad state of affairs aboard the boats and promised to do everything possible to ensure the refugees were attended to.

Thousands of refugees have been fleeing Somalia, crowding the beaches of Kismaayo in the past weeks to escape the war and instability there. Many of the boats they use are overcrowded and the death of more than 170 refugees off the Malindi coast last month has not deterred them. (Osman Fankutih), the captain of one of the boats, MV (Husnah), said they left Somalia more than 10 days ago, and the boat was carrying more than the maximum load of 270 people.

Former Minister Expresses Support for Moi

*EA0304201891 Nairobi Domestic Service in English
0400 GMT 3 Apr 91*

[Text] A one-time cabinet minister, Ramogi Ochieng Oneko [in political detention from 1952 to 61 and from 1969 to 76 and an associate of Oginga Odinga] has said that only those leaders committed to democracy would help the country face domestic and external socioeconomic and political pressures within the ruling party, KANU [Kenya African National Union]. In a statement to the press, Mr. Oneko declared his unwavering support for President Daniel arap Moi, who, he said, had worked tirelessly to make the ruling party responsive to the will of the people. He discounted allegations that he belonged to a group of leaders in the country who lacked a defined stand in politics.

Mr. Oneko said that although he has had some differences with some aspects of the way the ruling party is operating, he believed that the best way of strengthening KANU is to stay within the party in order to help it reform to meet future challenges. He stressed that as a life member of KANU, he was fully committed to the country's development and wanted the party to implement the various reform measures announced last year during the party's national conference at Kasarani.

Mr. Oneko pointed out that in these times of challenges, President Moi needed the support of all leaders to help him guide the country through any changes.

President Moi Receives Visiting Belgian Minister

*EA0404101291 Nairobi Domestic Service in English
1300 GMT 3 Apr 91*

[Excerpt] His Excellency President Daniel arap Moi today at State House, Nairobi, held talks with the Belgian minister for foreign affairs, Professor Mark Eyskens. During the talks, Prof. Eyskens briefed President Moi on the role Belgium was playing in resolving the conflict currently plaguing Rwanda. He at the same time paid tribute to President Moi for his efforts in bringing about peace within the region.

Prof. Eyskens noted that under President Moi Kenya occupied a special position in Africa and especially regarding development cooperation with Belgium. President Moi hailed the good relations existing between the two countries, adding that their development cooperation was fruitful. [passage omitted]

Somalia

USC Chairman on Country's Security Situation

*EA0304164691 Mogadishu Domestic Service
in Somali 1645 GMT 2 Apr 91*

[Text] Mr. Hussein Ali Shidow, the interim chairman of the United Somali Congress, USC, today gave details on the defense of liberated regions by the USC, the maintenance of security in those regions and the capital, Mogadishu, the USC's relations with Somali opposition fronts, and the USC's relations with neighboring countries, brotherly countries, and friendly countries. Speaking at a news conference held at the Ministry of Information headquarters, the chairman said his report was in compliance with the USC constitutional requirement that members should make fortnightly appraisals on the achievements and setbacks of the congress.

The interim chairman disclosed that USC commandos had been 65 percent successful in eliminating remnants of Siad Barre soldiers, some of whom were desperately hiding in certain areas in the southern regions. Mr. Shidow stated that USC liberation forces were making speedy progress in the areas, where mopping-up operations were taking place, and praised them for the proper way in which they were carrying out their responsibilities while upholding the dignity of the mass uprising which toppled the regime of dictator Siad Barre on 26 January 1991. The courageous struggle by the USC will earn them a golden leaf in the history of the Somali nation and will set an example to be emulated by future Somali generations, Mr. Shidow said. He urged flagging units to rally behind their brothers engaged in the struggle.

Turning to security, Mr. Shidow said the USC had formed a force that would work alongside the police force to deter robbery, [word indistinct], the firing of firearms without authorization, and similar offences. While speaking on robberies, the chairman extended condolences to the family of martyr Abukar Hassan

Mohamoud, who died during operations against gangsters in certain areas of Mogadishu, and wished a speedy recovery to fighter Mohamoud Sheikh Abdirahman, who was wounded in the security operations. Mr. Hussein Ali Shidow disclosed that the security situation is improving with every passing day, with 65 percent of security now assured as a result of the efforts and cooperation of the security forces.

The interim chairman of the USC revealed that the congress had sent delegations to Somali opposition groups, resulting in an agreement in principle to convene a national conference to discuss the interests of the Somali nation. He acknowledged that there were technical problems which it was hoped would be surmounted shortly. He disclosed that the groups met by the USC included the Somali National Movement, the Somali Salvation Democratic Front, the Somali Democratic Alliance, and the Somali Democratic Movement [SDM]. He also noted that there was a special relationship between the USC and the SDM.

On foreign relations, Chairman Hussein Ali Shidow expressed gratitude to governments which have shown good-neighborliness by welcoming people who have fled Somalia to Djibouti, Ethiopia, and Kenya when Siad Barre was bombarding Mogadishu with heavy weapons prior to his overthrow. The chairman said there were indications from Kenya that the gangsters who shared power with Siad Barre were being given an opportunity by Kenya to carry out political and military preparations aimed at causing disturbances and chaos in Somalia. Mr. Ali Shidow called on the Kenyan Government to look into these allegations in order to avoid harming [word indistinct] and good-neighborly relations.

The chairman pointed out that the setbacks faced by the USC were caused by internal enemies bent on destroying the stability of the country and the unity within the USC by using tribal pretexts but actually serving foreign governments. He said these enemies were engaged in causing confrontation among the masses. They were opposed to assuring security in the liberated regions, the unity of the USC, and the achievements of the USC. The interim chairman accused the retrogressive forces of being responsible for the existing problems, including robberies, terrorism, and firing of heavy weapons into the air and toward the sea in order to portray a situation where there is no peace and stability.

Mr. Hussein Ali Shidow declared that the aim of the troublemakers was to attain leadership through methods

that are contrary to the constitution and democratic rules of the USC. The chairman called on the Somali masses and USC members to oppose those who are trying to stir up trouble, whom he described as foreign agents, and to forcefully confront lawbreakers who have made it a habit of robbing, pillaging, and killing peace-loving Somalis, particularly those in the capital.

The interim chairman of the USC, Mr. Hussein Ali Shidow, said the country's progress has been divided into three phases. The first is the present one, which is difficult and which calls for emergency steps against lawbreakers engaged in such activities as terrorism, robbery, failure to comply with orders from security forces, [word indistinct], and rape. Such lawbreakers should be shot on the spot after making sure that they have committed such crimes, and their bodies should be left at the scene for 24 hours. No one should be allowed compensation on behalf of such lawbreakers.

In the second phase, lawbreakers who commit the foregoing crimes should not be shot on the spot, but should be taken before an emergency Islamic court, which would be composed of top Somali religious scholars who would base their judgement on the holy Koran and on the prophet's sunna. In the final phase, Chairman Hussein Ali Shidow said that, as already announced by the interim government, normal courts will resume sessions at the end of the state of emergency. Chairman Shidow called on the Somali masses to assist USC forces in effecting the aforesaid with effect as of today.

In reply to questions on shortages of essential commodities such as water, electricity, sanitation, and transportation, the chairman said these problems are being caused by a lack of security, pointing out that the fuel intended to solve these problems is being pillaged by lawbreakers and those assisting them. Chairman Hussein Ali Shidow expressed the hope that these problems would end, God willing, when security and stability in liberated areas under the USC has been assured.

Reportage on Premier's Near East Visit

WA0304190691

For reportage on the visit by Prime Minister Omar Arteh Ghalib to the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar, and Oman, including reports on his talks with Arab leaders, please see the Arabian Peninsula section of the 1 April Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Government Sees Wider Role for Proposed Forum

*MB0204110791 Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY
in English 2 April 91 p 1*

[Report by Tim Cohen: "Govt Covets a Wider Role for Proposed 'Troika' Forum on Violence"]

[Text] The ANC [African National Congress], Inkatha, and government have all backed the proposed "three wise men" team of their top leaders to deal with township violence, and senior government ministers hope it could eventually discuss wider constitutional issues.

The proposal came at a news conference following the weekend meeting in Durban between ANC Deputy President Nelson Mandela and Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi. Both leaders said they had discussed the "three wise men" forum.

Although they did so in the context of recurring violence, government sources have suggested this body might form the nucleus of a leaders' forum to tackle obstacles to negotiations on an ad hoc basis.

Buthelezi suggested a "troika" leadership consisting of himself, Mandela and President F.W. de Klerk to facilitate communication on urgent issues.

The suggested forum could go some way towards overcoming the impasse between government and the ANC over ANC demands for an interim government.

However, Inkatha and ANC spokesmen yesterday poured cold water on suggestions that the "three wise men" forum might soon handle constitutional matters.

Inkatha spokesman Suzanne Vos said Buthelezi's "troika" comments were made in the context of bringing the recent upsurge in violence under control.

The idea was not discussed during the meeting with Mandela, she said.

Inkatha would be concerned that other political groupings should also be included, she said.

ANC spokesman Gill Marcus said the transformation of the "three wise men" concept into a body tackling wider constitutional issues would shift its focus from the main issue of violence.

It would also make the body "politically questionable" which would be a disservice to the process of reducing conflict, she said.

She confirmed Mandela had cancelled his two-week Senegal visit to get back into the day-to-day functioning of the ANC after a month-long holiday.

The "three wise men" proposal demonstrates government's desire to speed up the negotiation process, which gained new momentum this week when De Klerk invited parliamentary parties to a meeting next week which is expected to take the form of a "parliamentary forum" to discuss constitutional issues.

The parties are due to meet immediately after the Easter recess on April 8.

Our Political Staff reports that De Klerk's move is seen as a bid to galvanise opposition to the demand by extra-parliamentary parties for constituent assembly elections, and to give fresh momentum to the negotiation process.

Meanwhile, 24 people died in unrest-related incidents in Alexandra over the Easter weekend, a police spokesman said.

The spokesman said six people had died in violence around the country since Sunday [31 March].

Three of the victims were killed in Alexandra—two had been shot while the third was stabbed.

Government Releases 5 ANC Prisoners

*MB0304164791 Johannesburg Domestic Service
in English 1600 GMT 3 Apr 91*

[Text] Five more ANC [African National Congress] security prisoners were released from Robben Island maximum security prison this afternoon after having been granted amnesty last Thursday [28 March]. Three of the released prisoners had been sentenced to five and six years' imprisonment, while the other two had served eight and nine years of their sentences.

ANC To Force Prisoners' Release

*MB0404133791 Umtata Capital Radio in English
1300 GMT 4 Apr 91*

[Text] The ANC [African National Congress] and its main allies are to embark on mass action to force the pace of the release of political prisoners. Andrew Bolton reports on the plan of the ANC-Cosatu-SACP [Congress of South African Trade Unions-South African Communist Party] alliance:

[Bolton] In this regard, the alliance has called on all of its members to march on five prisons in the PWV [Pretoria, Witwatersrand, Vereeniging] region on Saturday [6 April]. An ANC spokesman, Barbara Hogan, says they are concerned with the slow movement by the government in removing all obstacles to negotiations and releasing political prisoners. Hogan says the whole process of negotiations will be jeopardized unless the government releases all political prisoners and removes all other obstacles to negotiations by the end of the month. The alliance accuses the government of dragging its feet in this regard.

The march on the prisons on 6 April is part of a national pressure campaign to get the 1,700 political prisoners still in jail released. The alliance says they will continue to mount a mass action offensive until their goals are achieved. An ANC spokesman says the police have given permission for all the marches.

PAC Confirms 13 Apr Harare ANC Meeting*MB0304150491 Johannesburg Domestic Service
in Afrikaans 1400 GMT 3 Apr 91*

[Text] The Pan-Africanist Congress [PAC] has confirmed that the executive committees of PAC and the African National Congress will meet in Harare next Saturday [13 April] for discussions on constitutional negotiations. According to PAC, the meeting will attempt to form a united front. In the past, PAC has rejected the ANC's stand supporting negotiations with the government on a political dispensation.

ANC Calls for Ban on 'Traditional Weapons'*MB0304144291 Johannesburg Domestic Service
in Afrikaans 1400 GMT 3 Apr 91*

[Text] A senior African National Congress [ANC] delegation which held talks in Pretoria today with Law and Order Minister Mr. Adriaan Vlok has called for a ban on all traditional weapons. The delegation, led by ANC internal leader Mr. Walter Sisulu, also included Mr. Alfred Nzo and Mr. Joe Slovo, leader of the South African Communist Party. ANC spokesman Mr. Popo Molefe said after the talks that people should not be allowed to carry traditional weapons in the streets, to public meetings, or outside hostel premises.

Youths Criticize Camp Conditions; ANC Reacts*MB0304095191 Johannesburg SABC TV 1 Network
in English 0400 GMT 3 Apr 91*

[Text] Two youths have returned to South Africa from Botswana claiming that the African National Congress [ANC] had reneged on its promise to help them further their careers. In response to this allegation, the ANC issued a statement which said the organization did not recruit people with promises of scholarships, but on a political basis. Furthermore, the ANC offered refugees and other ANC members the choice of furthering their education or joining the organization's military wing. The two youths also allege that the conditions at Dukwe Camp in Botswana, from which they had just returned, were very bad. In its response, the organization said Dukwe was not an ANC camp but was used by the ANC, the PAC [Pan-Africanist Congress], and other liberation groups as a transit facility.

[Begin ANC Information Officer Saki Macozoma video recording] Insofar as the conditions at Dukwe are concerned, I would think that that issue should be raised with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, the Botswana Government, the Botswana Council of Churches, and with other agencies that deal with that. It is not an ANC camp and that is how people live when they are in exile. [end recording]

It was also said that no refugee camp was a five-star hotel. The fact that thousands of South African and Zimbabwean refugees had gone through Dukwe in the past 20 years meant the camp was survivable.

Union Criticizes Closure of Stilfontein Mine*MB0304101991 Umtata Capital Radio in English
0900 GMT 3 Apr 91*

[Text] The National Union of Mine Workers [NUM] has criticized the decision to close down Stilfontein Mine. The Gengold company announced last night that the Western Transvaal mine will be closed by the end of the year. The company says rising production costs and the falling price of gold made the decision inevitable. About 3,000 people will lose their jobs. Marcel Goldings gives the NUM's reaction:

[Begin recording] Well, our union is obviously extremely disappointed that the (?chairman) has taken this decision to unilaterally close the mine. Our union has been involved in retrenchment discussions with the company, and we were first informed yesterday that there was a decision to actually close the mine. Our view is that this approach, on the part of the (?chairman), is one which is not going to give up a cooperative relationship, and we believe that the decision is premature. [end recording]

Anglo American: No Mine Closures 'At Present'*MB0404103091 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0852 GMT 4 Apr 91*

[Text] Johannesburg April 4 SAPA—The largest operator of gold mines in South Africa, Anglo American, said on Thursday [4 April] that it had no intention "at present" of closing any of its mines.

The Anglo statement followed the announcement this week by Genmin that it would close the Stilfontein gold mine, near Potchefstroom, by the end of this year.

In a statement, Anglo's chief communications officer, Mr James Duncan, said that none of its mining operating areas—Freegold North and South, Vaal Reefs, West Rand and East Rand—were "loss-making".

"We have no intention at present to close any of the mines in these regions," Mr Duncan said.

However, Anglo recently announced that it would stop exploration work on new gold deposits in the Potchefstroom area.

A spokesman for Rand Mines, Mr Greg Kukard, would not comment on whether any of the mines operated by the group were in danger of closure. However, over the past year several thousand workers have been retrenched at Rand Mines' Harmony Mine near Virginia.

Thousands of other jobs at mines in South Africa are also at risk, and it would appear as though Genmin will also close its Bracken mine, near Evander in the eastern Transvaal, news reports

Cosatu Unveils Plan for Constitutional Rights*MB0304140191 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1255 GMT 3 Apr 91*

[By Neil Lewis]

[Text] Johannesburg April 3 SAPA—South Africa's largest trade union federation, Cosatu [Congress of South African Trade Unions], on Wednesday [3 April] unveiled a five-point package designed to enshrine worker rights in a future constitution.

In the process, the federation also stamped its mark as an independent part of South Africa's political mosaic.

Releasing the document in Johannesburg, Cosatu's General Secretary Jay Naidoo charged that a workers' charter in a constitution was necessary to prevent a repetition of mistakes made in other parts of the world.

The five constitutional demands are:

"That full trade union rights be guaranteed in a future constitution, including the right to strike, to organise as well as the creation of a separate court to interpret labour regulations;

"The right of trade unions to be independent from the state, bosses and political parties;

"An accountable government, which would include specific clauses that the state not control the media, that entrenched rights for workers may not be abrogated, even in a state of emergency, a constitutional court be created and there should be limited terms of office for government officials such as a president;

"A democratically planned economy with the state having the right to intervene if the need arises as well as union participation in economic planning; and

"Total equality between men and women in marriage, employment and in society with affirmative programmes as a follow-up.

"At the macro-political level, we have been acting in consultation with the ANC [African National Congress] and SACP [South African Communist Party] on the question of negotiations...but with the adoption of a draft workers' charter at our 4th annual congress in July this year, we are saying that workers' rights should also be fundamentally enshrined," said Mr Naidoo.

Expanding on the document, Cosatu workers' charter official Ebrahim Patel said there were powerful reasons why such a package had to be included in a future constitution.

"A constitution is embedded in the constitution, no statute or law can override it. [sentence as received] Also the constitution is a permanent piece of legislation whereas statutes can be amended or changed according to what government comes into power."

Mr Patel said the five demands were broad outlines of principles, whose form and content was being worked out by regions and branches throughout the country.

"For instance, while we say a government must be accountable, we have not worked on specifics such as how many signatures are needed to force a government to hold a referendum. If it is 100 signatures, we would

have hundreds of referendums, but if it is 10-million, that would make the process worthless.

"It is these kind of specifics that are being attended to. Similarly, when we speak of trade union participation in economic planning or collective ownership, the form is once again not clear, but discussions are continuing."

Once a workers' charter was formally adopted by the federation, it would present it to other labour organisations, such as the National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu), to enable such a document to be as widely representative as possible, said Mr Naidoo.

In view of their demands, Cosatu had already begun negotiations with employer organisations, including Saccola [South African Consultative Committee on Labor Affairs], on issues such as job creation, retrenchments and what he called local management's own form of economic sanctions by way of dropping investment.

Cosatu, Mr Naidoo added, has also strategically—and with clear principles—entered the National Manpower Commission to deal with labour and economic restructuring matters.

The document was the result of Cosatu's independence—it would forward the package to its alliance, who would be asked to endorse its demands.

Natal's Botha Seeks Stronger Regional Government *MB0304122791 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 3 Apr 91*

[Text] The administrator of Natal, Mr. Con Botha, says the interests of the people of Natal and KwaZulu can best be served by a form of government that allows them greater say in and control over own affairs. Speaking at the annual meeting of the Natal North Coast Regional Development Association, he said that Natal and KwaZulu had complex problems and very different communities, each with their own unique qualities and needs. Therefore, a strong form of regional government was needed with more or less the same powers as those of the self governing territories. Mr. Botha said he believed that prior consensus between the public and private sectors in Natal was crucial if they were to play a role in helping to shape the future of the region.

Students Blame Government for Alexandra Unrest *MB0304132591 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1300 GMT 3 Apr 91*

[Text] The Congress of South African Students [Cosas] has blamed the government for the recent violence in Johannesburg's Alexandra township. Cosas has called on the government to act immediately to stop the bloodshed. Cosas has also called on all people in strife-torn areas in the country to stand up and fight those responsible for the violence.

Police Deny Threatening Alexandra Activist

*MB0304142791 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1146 GMT 3 Apr 91*

[By David Greybe]

[Text] Johannesburg April 3 SAPA—Police have denied claims that they threatened on Wednesday [3 April] morning to kill a student activist in Alexandra when he wasn't home during a raid in which nine other ANC [African National Congress]-linked activists were picked up for an identification parade.

"I can confirm that police are investigating charges of intimidation in Alexandra township, and that nine people were picked up this morning (Wed)," police spokesman Col Frans Malherbe told SAPA.

"The police deny however the claim that a member of Cosas (Congress of South African Students) was threatened with death," he said.

The publicity secretary of Cosas in the Johannesburg township, Mr Ncane Ntuli, had earlier told SAPA that nine activists were detained.

"They also visited my place this morning at around 6 o'clock, but I wasn't home," Mr Ntuli added.

"They said they want me and will make sure that they will arrest all Cosas members," he claimed.

"They threatened my sister that...they will kill me," Mr Ntuli claimed.

Three white policemen and four black policemen, travelling in four vehicles, reportedly visited his home.

Col Malherbe told SAPA: "Nine people were picked up for an identification parade this morning (Wed) which in the end didn't go ahead. All nine were released later."

The investigation into intimidation in Alexandra, where at least 28 residents have died since last week Wednesday, would continue.

"The nine can expect to be picked up again for an identification parade," Col Malherbe added.

Asked for more details concerning the charges, he said they weren't linked to any specific incident but to the "general situation" in Alexandra.

The Alexandra branch of Cosas, in a statement released to SAPA, condemned the "acts of aggression by the state to intimidate our members through continuous detention".

"We view the detention of Auron Mwela this morning (Wed) as another act of fuelling the violence which is ongoing in the township," Cosas charged, referring to the detention of one of its members.

An ANC spokesman in Alexandra told SAPA that the other eight people detained, and later released, were all women members of the township's ANC branch.

Cosas added: "We demand that the state should put into practice what they are preaching and that (Minister of Law and Order Adriaan) Vlok should stop the security forces from harrasing Cosas members."

Cosas plans to hold a prayer service on Thursday for seven of its members who were gunned down last week, Wednesday, when unidentified gunmen shot and hacked to death 13 township residents at a funeral vigil.

The service is due to begin at 3PM in the Presbyterian Church, on the corner of 10th Street and Selbourne Street.

Mr Ntuli added though that because Alexandra has been declared an unrest area, Cosas was still awaiting a reply to their application made on Tuesday to the magistrate for permission to hold the service.

Four Killed in Natal; 12 ANC Supporters Held

*MB0404090291 Umtata Capital Radio in English
0500 GMT 4 Apr 91*

[Text] Political murders have left four more people dead in Ndaleni near Pietermaritzburg, and efforts to end the violence there remains stalled. Police spokesman Major Peter Kitching says on Tuesday [2 April] an Inkatha supporter was stabbed to death. It was the first killing since the weekend violence in which at least 25 people were killed. He says yesterday the bodies of three other men were found in the area. Their political links aren't known. An Inkatha chief, however, says six people were killed last night. ANC [African National Congress] and Inkatha leaders in Ndaleni blame each other for the upsurge in violence. Police say 12 ANC supporters are being held for questioning in connection with the weekend killings.

AWB Member Given Death Sentence for 7 Killings

*MB0404095591 Umtata Capital Radio in English
0900 GMT 4 Apr 91*

[Text] Sentence has been passed on AWB [Afrikaner Resistance Movement] killer Eugene Marais and in a report just at hand. Carmel Rickard has details:

[Rickard] The judge has given Marais the death sentence on each of the seven counts of murder on which he was convicted and 12 years for each of the attempted murder charges. The judge said he felt the aggravating circumstances outweighed the mitigating circumstances in the case. It was essential that society be given a strong message that action such as this would not be tolerated. Society was passing through a period of great insecurity and tension and this kind of action only made matters worse. After Marais was led away his wife and mother stood weeping and leaning on the dock where he had been standing. A relative of one of those killed in the shooting said he felt justice had been done and that the sentence would deter others from similar actions.

Foreign Order for 'Rooivalk' Attack Helicopter

MB0204105591 Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY
in English 2 Apr 91 pp 1, 2

[Report by Linden Birns: "Foreign Order Saves Armscor Helicopter"]

[Text] Production of SA's [South Africa] Rooivalk [red falcon] attack helicopter has been resumed after a foreign order was received for at least five of the high-tech aircraft.

Informed sources said last week manufacture of the helicopter had entered the production-line phase.

The Rooivalk project was stopped last year after the prototype had been built.

The Rooivalk was originally designed for the SA Air Force [SAAF] which needed a helicopter ground-attack capability to counter Soviet equipment used by MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola] and Cuban forces in Angola.

With the SADF's [South African Defense Force] withdrawal from Namibia in 1989, the SAAF last year announced it was cancelling all orders with the Atlas Aircraft Company.

Armscor [Armaments Corporation of South Africa] Spokesman Don Henning confirmed at the weekend that the project had not been shelved and that efforts were still being made to create an interest in the product in foreign markets.

He could not confirm or deny the order for the five aircraft or say how much the Rooivalk was being sold for.

"It's difficult to say how much Armscor would sell Rooivalk for. Like most Armscor products it is offered as part of a package which includes many variables," he said.

Henning said these packages could include training programmes, various weapons, avionics and navigation systems.

He said Armscor was not planning to exhibit the Rooivalk at this year's Paris Air Salon in June and had no definite plans to exhibit products at any other international military trade fairs this year.

Last week JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY'S SA correspondent Helmoed Romer-Heitman criticised the 1991/92 defence budget and said it left the SADF, and the SAAF specifically, deficient in defence capabilities.

Speaking in Pretoria after leading the final Buccaneer bomber flight on Thursday [28 March], SAFF Chief Lt-Gen Johan van Loggerenberg said it was not the aircraft, but weapons and weapons systems that were becoming increasingly important in modern warfare.

ROC Scientists View Biomedical Engineering

MB0304101091 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0913 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Cape Town April 3 SAPA—A delegation of scientists from the Republic of China [ROC] are to assess the status of South African biomedical engineering, with a view to setting up joint projects with local medical researchers.

Biomedical engineering, a relatively new discipline in South Africa, is the application of engineering, science and technology to address health related problems, according to a statement by the Medical Research Council [MRC].

The group of six ROC scientists is to arrive in South Africa on Wednesday [3 April] at the invitation of the Council, which has a scientific exchange agreement with the National Science Council in the ROC.

They are to meet local biomedical engineers at universities in Pretoria, Johannesburg, and Cape Town before attending a mini-symposium at the MRC's head office in Cape Town to discuss possible collaborative research and development programmes.

The MRC recently established a special programme for biomedical engineering, a field in which development could, according to the Council, have far reaching effects on local health care and health costs.

4 Apr Press Review of Current Issues, Problems
MB0404112891

[Editorial Report]

THE STAR

Criticism of CCB Agent Acheson's Deportation—"The deportation of the self-confessed CCB [Civil Cooperation Bureau] agent Donald Acheson brings an unsatisfactory end, of sorts, to an unhappy saga," declares a page 16 editorial in Johannesburg's THE STAR in English on 4 April. Mr. Acheson was originally charged with the murder of Anton Lubowski, the white lawyer who rose to high office in the South-West African People's Organization, SWAPO, and "was alleged by Defence Minister Magnus Malan to have been an SADF [South African Defense Force] agent." "Until Mr Lubowski's killers are brought to justice, people will assume a CCB connection and that means an official South African connection. Mr Acheson's deportation accentuates rather than allays these suspicions."

BUSINESS DAY

Top-Level Troika Pitfalls—"There seems to be more than passing interest in the idea" of a "top-level 'troika'" to help defuse township violence, notes Johannesburg's BUSINESS DAY in English on 4 April in a page 6 editorial. "Government sources suggest that the scope of such a troika could be widened to discuss other issues, but Inkatha and the ANC [African National Congress] are adamant that it should focus only on violence." BUSINESS DAY believes the "troika" idea is likely to fail if it is promoted beyond the "well-intentioned and potentially helpful role of township peacemaker." "The ANC, while vulnerable to charges that it is being ineffective in ending the township conflict, will be extremely careful in embarking on any venture that would strengthen Buthelezi's position. He is, after all, the main stumbling block to dominance by the ANC in black politics."

Angola**Delegation Arrives in Lisbon for Cease-Fire Talks***LD0304220691 Lisbon Domestic Service in Portuguese
2000 GMT 3 Apr 91*

[Text] Everything is in place for the start of the sixth round of the Angolan peace talks. The Angolan delegation arrived in Lisbon about two hours ago, and is headed by Angolan Minister Lopo Nascimento. The minister says that everything is ready for the cease-fire:

[Begin Lopo Nascimento recording] Everything is ready for the discussion of pending issues. The instructions we have are to stay in Lisbon as long as it takes to discuss everything. Therefore we came fully prepared to stay as long as necessary. I believe that to talk of concessions or no concessions is to insist on seeing things in terms of black and white, winners and losers. I believe there is one winner, the Angolan people, and all that is done by both sides which leads to a cease-fire and a peaceful development of Angolan society cannot be seen as a concession. In my opinion, it is realism, common sense, and a positive attitude toward the progress of the country. [end recording]

That was Lopo Nascimento on his arrival at Lisbon Airport. All is in place for the sixth round of talks. UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] and the MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola] are to sit at the same table tomorrow to discuss matters such as signing a cease-fire, the election timetable, and the formation of a single national army. The talks will be held at a hotel and catering school in Bicesse, near Estoril.

UNITA Vice President Arrives*MB0104130391 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
0500 GMT 1 Apr 91*

[Text] UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] Vice President Jeremias Chitunda said on arrival in Lisbon, Portugal, that his movement feels the Angolan peace negotiations must continue under Portuguese mediation. Chitunda, who is leading UNITA's delegation to the next round of talks with the Luanda government which is scheduled to take place in Estoril on 3 April, was reacting to a recent statement by President Jose Eduardo dos Santos that UNITA and the Angolan Government should hold direct talks inside Angola.

Jeremias Chitunda pointed out that his delegation has a mandate to (?sign) a cease-fire and establish a date for elections. He also pointed out, however, that it is still difficult to set dates inasmuch as everything will depend on the pace and form of talks.

Defense, Security Council Discusses Peace Plan*MB0304094991 Luanda Domestic Service
in Portuguese 0600 GMT 3 Apr 91*

[Text] The Defense and Security Council met in Luanda yesterday to discuss a peace plan for the People's Republic of Angola. Negotiations between the Angolan Government and UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] on the signing of a cease-fire will begin in Lisbon tomorrow [4 April]. The meeting chaired by His Excellency Jose Eduardo dos Santos, head of state and government, also approved by amendment a decree which establishes a sanitary and garbage collection company in Luanda and its respective statutes, as well as a draft decree which appoints the chairman of the TAAG [Angolan Airlines] Administration Council.

UNITA Missile Strikes Red Cross Aircraft*MB0304201391 Luanda Domestic Service
in Portuguese 1900 GMT 3 Apr 91*

[Text] An International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] aircraft was hit by a missile fired by UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] gangs in Bie Province's Cuanza region on 29 March. This was disclosed by ICRC delegate to Angola Vicent Nicod. Speaking to ANGOP, Nicod said the aircraft, a Twin Otter, was flying from Moxico to the Cuito orthopedic center and was carrying eight passengers crippled in the war.

Although the aircraft was hit in one of its engines and the fuselage, it managed to land safely. The passengers and crew did not suffer any injuries. The ICRC delegate appealed for respect for ICRC personnel, vehicles, and aircraft to ensure assistance to and protection for war victims. He added that the aircraft in question bore the ICRC's insignia.

Meanwhile, UNITA bandits attacked a bus yesterday carrying workers from Capanda to Malanje City. The attack occurred on the Malanje-Cacuso road when two buses carrying 148 workers employed by the [words indistinct] Capanda hydroelectric scheme [words indistinct] two workers were (?killed) and 31 others wounded.

MPLA Soldiers Accused of 'Savage Acts' in Uige*MB0304082491 (Clandestine) Voice of Resistance
of the Black Cockerel in Portuguese to Southern
and Central Africa 0500 GMT 3 Apr 91*

[Text] MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola] soldiers are carrying out savage acts in Uige City. According to sources close to our correspondent in Uige, armed FAPLA [People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola] soldiers have been breaking into people's houses at night and stealing their property. Many people who have tried to oppose these inhuman actions have been murdered in cold blood over the past

four days. The sources say that FAPLA officers in the city are encouraging soldiers to carry out these criminal actions.

Mauritius

* Alliance Goals: MMM Accepts Minor Role

91AF0832B Port Louis L'EXPRESS in French
18 Feb 91 p 6

[Article: "Jugnauth Addresses First MSM/MMM/MTD Congress"]

[Text] The leader of the MSM/MMM [Mauritius Socialist Movement/Mauritian Militant Movement] alliance, Sir Anerood Jugnauth, who was the final speaker at university auditorium yesterday during the first joint MSM/MMM congress, opened his remarks by saying the alliance represents a unique opportunity for the country's future, an opportunity it would be criminal not to grasp. "With this alliance we have brought together not only the militants from both our parties but also all of the Mauritian people." Concern for Mauritian unity is behind all the political activity of the MSM/MMM, said Jugnauth, who told his supporters he had full confidence in the MMM. If that party had wanted to deal falsely with the MSM, it could have done so last year by refusing to join the government. "The MMM kept faith with us, and I tell you that I have faith in it."

The MSM leader said the goal of the alliance is to make Mauritius an economic tiger and do away completely with inflation.

"Part of the work was already accomplished when we got the country out of its economic slump and into a boom. Our task was made easier by a number of favorable conditions. Now we face a number of adverse conditions: war in the Gulf, the international recession, drought on the local scene, and wage increases have brought inflation back," he said.

Sir Anerood went on to say there are challenges to be met if the economy is to get back on its feet:

- modernize agriculture, for "real wealth is in the ground";
- modernize our free zone, the textile and service sectors of which need to be consolidated;
- improve facilities at the port to make it a transshipment center for this part of the world;
- invest in the environment and housing and persevere in efforts to make Mauritius a financial center.

"With the alliance, these goals can be achieved, and we can give the world an example of a small-developed country that lives in perfect harmony, despite its differences." The MSM leader called on MSM/MMM rank and file and the public to support the alliance, while warning that those who turn their backs on the alliance "are pursuing a suicidal course. Our enemies will end up like salted fish drying in the sun."

Earlier, MMM leader Prem Nababsing retraced the history of the MMM, its "days of glory and days of suffering" since 1969. He said that despite the differences that had divided the MMM and MSM, they have common ideological foundations. He said he was glad the talks between MMM and the Labor Party [Pt] broke down. Dr Nababsing also explained how difficult his role as opposition leader had been, whereas now the MSM's door is always open to the MMM. He went over the parliament's record of accomplishment and observed that between now and next year "important events will be happening." He did not, however, shed any light on the nature of these upcoming events.

According to Mr. Paul Berenger, MMM secretary general, this congress taking place seven months after the signing of the 19 July agreement was one of "rediscovered unity" following seven years of separation. He spoke with much feeling about the reconciliation, swearing "by our nation's history that whenever problems arise between us, we will resolve them ourselves." Describing himself as pleased that the MSM/MMM alliance had consolidated national unity, he emphasized the solidity of the alliance and the insignificance of its political adversaries, "a pack of [religious] parochialists," people who "prefer to live in the past rather than be part of the present."

Mr. Madun Dulloo gave an impassioned speech, which he began by paying homage to militants on both sides who made the alliance possible. While it is indispensable to put an end to the tensions between the [religious] communities on Mauritius, he said, it is also imperative to end those tensions within the communities based on one group's supposed superiority to another. Mr. Dulloo appealed for cooperation and unity and said his ultimate hope is to reunite the three great religious communities represented on Mauritius so the country can set an example for the world. He challenged the idea that each community must have a leader in order to take part in the democratic life of the country. He criticized the pressure groups that interfere with ministers trying to do their jobs properly. "Pressure groups try to wear down the ministers, fill their heads with ideas and their pockets with money. When their pockets are full, their heads are empty." In a democracy where everyone plays his part, such things would never happen, he added.

"Many people dreamed of this alliance before it was a reality. Now it has finally come about, because it was necessary, the Mauritian people wanted it. The rank and file wanted it even before the leaders agreed to it; this alliance responds to the deepest yearnings of the Mauritian people." It was in these terms that Mr. Jean Claude de l'Estrac began his remarks, which focused on the differences between a modern alliance and those in the past, which might be called "united packs." According to Mr. de l'Estrac, there is no doubt the alliance is headed for victory in the upcoming elections, given the quality of the adversaries trying to unite to stand in its way.

Expanding on the theme of peace in the world, Mr. Cassam Uteem noted the hypocrisy of Western nations that cry out when two Iraqi missiles hit Israel but remain mute when civilians are killed in a Baghdad bunker. He also said peace must be established within Mauritius's confessional communities before there can be peace between them. In a more political vein, Mr. Uteem paid homage to rank-and-file members who had negotiated the alliance between the MMM and MSM and described Sir Anerood Jugnauth as the unchallenged leader of the country. "The MMM has agreed to play a minority role in the alliance. At the next elections, the quotas will be as follows: MSM, the equivalent of 11 districts; the MMM, along with the MTD [Democratic Labor Movement], nine. Whatever else happens, Sir Anerood Jugnauth is going to be the prime minister of the government formed after the next general elections."

Three other speakers took part in the congress, which was chaired by Mr. Karl Offman, MSM secretary general. Mrs. Sheila Bappoo reviewed the accomplishments of her ministry and promised workers a bright future with the MSM/MMM alliance. Mr. Michael Glover devoted his remarks to denouncing the PMSD [Mauritian Social Democratic Party] for distributing crown lands to its favorites. Mr. Dharam Gookool expressed MMM's satisfaction in contracting an alliance with MSM. At the opening session, the congress heard speeches from Mr. Serge Clair of OPR [Organization of the Rodrigues People] and from Mr. Anil Baichoo.

This first MSM/MMM congress was held in a packed hall decorated in mauve and white with orange suns. Closed-circuit television with several giant screens was installed in the foyer to allow the many delegates unable to find seating in the auditorium to follow the speeches, while chairs were set up in the two corridors nearest the meeting hall.

Mozambique

Chissano Calls For Cease-Fire With Renamo

MB0304180291 Maputo Domestic Service
in Portuguese 1730 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] In Sao Tome's capital today, President Joaquim Chissano said that the Government of the Republic of Mozambique would like a cease-fire accord to be signed with Renamo [Mozambique National Resistance] right away. Joaquim Chissano was replying to a question on whether he believed in the possibility of a cease-fire accord being signed with Renamo this year.

The Mozambican head of state said: We have nothing else to discuss. Everything is clear for us. The other side should raise its difficulties and problems, which will be dealt with to pave the way for a cease-fire. Joaquim Chissano added: What we want is peace, reconciliation, harmony, and the development of the country.

The president of the Republic of Mozambique has been in Sao Tome and Principe since this morning, where he attended the inauguration of Miguel Trovoada, a 54-year-old jurist, as president of that country. Trovoada on 3 March won the first multiparty presidential elections held in Sao Tome and Principe.

Renamo Leader Discusses Meeting With Soares

PM2503144791 Lisbon DIARIO DE NOTICIAS
in Portuguese 18 Mar 91 p 3

[Unattributed interview with National Resistance leader Afonso Dhlakama; place and date not given]

[Excerpt] [Introductory passage omitted] [DIARIO DE NOTICIAS] When you wrote to Mario Soares asking him to facilitate your visit to Portugal, did you have any idea that it would cause a "political storm?"

[Dhlakama] I am aware that my letter may have caused some problems in Portuguese politics. When I wrote in the first place, I had analyzed Dr. Mario Soares' political thinking, his political ideas, especially the sort of relations he has always maintained with the Portuguese-speaking African nations.

That is why I believed that the president would be able to intercede with the prime minister in contriving to facilitate my visit to Portugal. I could then explain to the Portuguese Government, as well as to the Portuguese people, my reasons for the existence of this struggle between Renamo [Mozambique National Resistance] and Frelimo [Mozambique Liberation Front].

[DIARIO DE NOTICIAS] Have you had any reply from the Portuguese president?

[Dhlakama] I have had no formal reply as yet, but I know that his reaction was favorable because I intimated in the letter that we are engaged in a peace process, with negotiations with the Frelimo government, and that this is the time for the Portuguese people to hear Renamo's stances.

[DIARIO DE NOTICIAS] Does Renamo have relations with the Portuguese Government?

[Dhlakama] We have had contacts. As is common knowledge, Raul Domingos, Renamo's external relations chief, has already visited Portugal, where he had an opportunity to be received by Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Durao Barroso. We have also had other kinds of contact, due to the peace process.

[DIARIO DE NOTICIAS] This being so, why did you not write directly to Prime Minister Cavaco Silva about your visit?

[Dhlakama] I decided to write the letter to Mario Soares because I believed that the president of the Republic, as head of state, would have an opportunity to speak with the prime minister with the result of facilitating my visit.

[DIARIO DE NOTICIAS] For when, in principle, is the visit scheduled?

[Dihakama] I suggested in my letter that it take place at the beginning of May, but now I do not know what will happen or when the problems caused in Lisbon will be resolved.

I do not know whether the suggested date or another will be considered, because I have no definite information.

[DIARIO DE NOTICIAS] You met in Rome last week with a number of representatives of several countries—specifically, with a representative of the Portuguese Foreign Ministry. What was discussed at that meeting?

[Dihakama] We discussed the negotiating process itself. We discussed the existing problems posed by the Zimbabwean troops, who do not wish to stay confined to the Beira and Limpopo corridors as stipulated in the agreement between Renamo and Frelimo signed in Rome last December.

We also discussed the aspect of the Portuguese Government's continued reluctance to open its doors to Renamo in Portugal. I pointed out to the Portuguese Government that Renamo cannot understand the policy applied by the government with respect to the civil war in Mozambique.

In addition, because the Portuguese Government is going to hold the EEC Presidency, we asked Portugal to inform the other European countries of the true situation in Mozambique, because we know that many of those governments do not yet believe in Renamo as a political party, as the opposition to the Marxist Frelimo regime.

I can say that the meeting was positive, because the Portuguese Government representative told me that he would work toward improving understanding in that respect.

[DIARIO DE NOTICIAS] How do you assess the other contacts which you had in Rome—specifically, with the U.S. number two man on African policy and with the Soviet ambassador?

[Dihakama] I believe that I was successful; in the first place, because it was the first time that I had launched a diplomatic offensive of this kind with the European countries.

Second, because I talked with official representatives of those governments, who are military personnel, but also diplomats.

Specifically, we discussed the negotiating process, and the countries understood our viewpoint. With respect to the joint verification commission, I complained about that commission, stating that the methods applied are inappropriate, and they all promised that they would make recommendations through their representatives to strengthen the commission's capability.

All the meetings were very successful. Internationally, Renamo's position will change.

The Soviet Union even promised that it would do its utmost to help the Mozambicans—that is, Frelimo and Renamo—to achieve peace rapidly in Mozambique.

[DIARIO DE NOTICIAS] Renamo is attacking in the Limpopo Corridor and has issued an ultimatum concerning the Beira Corridor. Do you believe that the peace process is in jeopardy?

[Dihakama] Yes, yes, yes! Those matters were examined at all the meetings I had in Rome, and I sought to highlight two problems. One problem is Zimbabwe's failure to complete the withdrawal of its troops to the corridors; another is the peace process.

On the promise which we made to attack the Beira Corridor again after 5 April if the Zimbabweans do not withdraw, I explained this, in fact, to the countries. The countries promised to do their utmost to ensure that there is an indication of withdrawal from the Zimbabweans by the deadline.

If that indication is given, we will be able to suspend our decision.

With respect to the talks, I reaffirmed my organization's stance in favor of resuming them as soon as there are radio communications to establish contact between the Renamo negotiators in Rome and the Gongorosa base.

Right now we are waiting for a second radio transmitter to be set up in Malawi in order to set the date for the resumption of the talks.

That date will probably be in early April.

Attack on Renamo Communications Site Disputed
*MB0304160391 London BBC World Service
in English 1515 GMT 3 Apr 91*

[Text] There are conflicting claims about a government attack in a remote part of Mozambique's central province of Sofala. According to the government, the attack was on a communications center of the Renamo [Mozambique National Resistance] rebel movement. The rebels say otherwise, and it seems an international agency got caught up in the operation. From Maputo, Iain Christie reports:

[Begin recording] A communique issued by Armed Forces Headquarters in Maputo said the Army had attacked and destroyed a Renamo communications center at Senga-Senga, a remote rural area about 50 km south of the Zambezi River. In the attack, the communique said, the Army captured sophisticated equipment including decoding apparatus, implying that it was a fairly important Renamo base.

But Renamo's version of the incident is somewhat different. The rebels' office in Lisbon also announced the attack but described the target as an aid distribution

center of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the ICRC. Marco Weil, the ICRC's deputy chief representative in Maputo, told me that his organization did have a delegate and a medical worker in Senga-Senga, but, he added, they were evacuated last Friday [29 March] for security reasons. He confirmed that Senga-Senga was one of four Renamo-held areas in the country in which the International Red Cross is operating.

The incident highlights the precarious position of the Red Cross, which is allowed by the government to work anywhere it wants, but in this case seems to have found itself, probably unwittingly, in a major Renamo military communications post. The ICRC was formally authorized last December by the government to operate in Renamo areas, and Mr. Weil told me that the agreement has been functioning well. This was the first incident since the operation began, he said. He expected flights to Canxixe, an airstrip near Senga-Senga, to be resumed in the next few days.

Another controversial aspect of the weekend clash is that Renamo found Zimbabwean forces have taken part in the fighting. The Red Cross deputy chief told me he had no evidence of any Zimbabwean involvement. [end recording]

Renamo Allegedly Publicly Executing Captives

MB0304114791 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Renamo [Mozambique National Resistance] continues to publicly execute people to frighten its captives and stop them from running away. This was revealed by four peasants from Gondola District in Manica Province who fled from Renamo captivity.

Official: Food Deficit at 1.1 Million Tonnes

MB0304161291 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1400 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] The country's current food deficit has been set at 1.1 million tonnes compared to the 800,000 tonnes forecast in late 1990. A marked reduction in the levels of the agricultural barter system has been forecast for 1991 due to irregular rains.

More than 70 percent of the crops in the current agricultural campaign in Manica and Sofala Province have been lost. [Words indistinct] fell in central and northern Mozambique in the past few weeks. Should the situation remain unchanged, more crops could be lost. This was revealed in Maputo today by Deputy Trade Minister Antonio Mungwambe at the opening of Agricom's [Agricultural Products Marketing Company] national meeting.

Zambia

Lusaka Notes South African Stand on Visas

MB0304205791 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Just a week after Zambia liberalized the granting of visas to South Africans, a senior South African official said today that his country will not reciprocate immediately. Mr. (Volgwe Dawrie), a spokesman for the South African Foreign Affairs Ministry, said such a move can only be considered when the two countries hold discussions on the matter.

Mr. (Dawrie), who was quoted by the AFRICAN NEWS ORGANIZATION, has, however, said that his country had liberalized the granting of visas to Mozambicans, Malawians, nationals of Madagascar, Mauritius, Hong Kong citizens, and Singaporeans, as their countries had relaxed the visa requirements for South Africans.

In the Zambian move, announced by chief immigration officer Comrade Clement Mbangweta last week, South Africans visiting Zambia can get their visas at their port of entry.

Pretoria's Readmission to World Sports Favored

MB0304160791 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Zambia says it supports efforts by the International Olympic Committee [IOC] to end South Africa's sports isolation. Zambia's junior minister for youth and sport, Mr. Ben Zulu, said the Zambian Government supported the IOC because it was the wish of all Zambians that South Africans, both black and white, to rejoin the sporting world. He said, however, that South Africa could be readmitted to international sports only if it abided by what the international community was saying. An IOC delegation visited South Africa last week and gave the country six months to meet five conditions for returning to the Olympic fold.

Kaunda Praises Babangida's Pan-Africanist Work

MB0304165791 Dakar PANA in English 1630 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Lusaka, 3 April (ZANA/PANA)—Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda has praised his Nigerian counterpart, Gen. Ibrahim Babangida, for being a true pan-Africanist, committed to ending the suffering of black people without becoming a racist. He said even in this century, the suffering of the black man was still there through exploitation, but the continent, with leaders like Babangida, was fighting to get out of it without being racist.

Kaunda made the remarks after he received a special message from Babangida, delivered by Nigeria's permanent representative to the United Nations, Prof. Ibrahim Gambari, who arrived in the country Wednesday [3 April]. The contents of the message was not disclosed. Kaunda assured Babangida of Zambia's support for his efforts to bring civilian rule to Nigeria. Nigeria, he said, held a special

position in Zambia because of the west African country's total commitment to the struggle in southern Africa. Kaunda said it was because of the impressive record that Zambia had recognised Nigeria as a Frontline State.

Grey Zulu on Multiparty Democracy, Development

*MB0304205391 Lusaka Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 3 Apr 91*

[Text] UNIP's [United National Independence Party] Secretary General Grey Zulu said in Chipata today that the reintroduction of multiparty democracy in the country is bound to affect development. Comrade Zulu said instead of concentrating more on development issues, the country's leadership were now spending more time talking politics to counteract what he called lies that opposition parties are making about UNIP.

Speaking to people who welcomed him at Chipata Airport today, (when he) arrived there to start his tour of Eastern Province, the UNIP's secretary general said opposition parties stand no chance of winning the October multiparty elections. He praised the people of Eastern Province, and he said that [word indistinct] to belong to any other party other than UNIP.

Zimbabwe

Mugabe Emphasizes Small Business' 'Vital Role'

*MB0304134491 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1246 GMT 3 Apr 91*

[Text] Chitungwiza April 3 SAPA—President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe on Wednesday [3 April] urged small businessmen to form groups or partnerships to be more viable.

Officially opening the ZD [Zimbabwe dollar] 30-million Chitungwiza shopping centre, he said small businessmen should avoid being individualistic, as the creation of capital was easier in collective ventures.

"We advise that (you) come together, and you will be more viable that way," he was quoted as saying by ZIANA news agency.

He noted that small businessmen had a vital role to play in the development of the nation.

Mr Mugabe said it was for this reason that government had provided infrastructure at more than 64 growth points at a cost of ZD30 million. Title deeds were available at these centres, he said.

"Government had hoped, and still hopes, that the indigenous business investors will take up the initiatives to invest and provide services closer to the majority of our people, who still live in the rural areas," he said.

The president described the Chitungwiza shopping centre as a well-planned, integrated and people-oriented multi-purpose commercial venture.

The shopping centre was developed by Old Mutual, an insurance company, in partnership with Zimbabwe's Urban Development Corporation.

"Chitungwiza shopping complex is significant, in that it demonstrates how development can be accelerated when there is the will and determination, as well as proper coordination and cooperation between the private and public sectors," the president said.

Benin**New President Soglo Takes Oath of Office***AB0404142691 Paris AFP in English 1425 GMT
4 Apr 91*

[Excerpts] Cotonou, April 4 (AFP)—Benin's new president, Nicéphore Soglo, took his oath of office Thursday at a hotel here during an official ceremony postponed by three days for health reasons.

Mr. Soglo, 56, returned here Wednesday after undergoing surgery for sciatica in a French military hospital.

The former World Bank official was elected for a five year term March 24 with 67.73 per cent of the vote. The defeated incumbent Mathieu Kérékou will go down in history as being first mainland African ruler to seize power in a military coup and lose it in democratic elections.

A scheduled meeting of the two men before the ceremony had to be cut short because of Mr. Soglo's physical condition. They shook hands and exchanged a few words, after which Mr. Kérékou left the hotel where a national conference met a year ago to set up a transitional government and plan the end of 17 years of Marxist military rule.

Mr. Soglo, wearing a dark suit, looked tired and was visibly in pain during Thursday's ceremony. Photographers and cameramen other than those from state television, were not allowed to film the president as his entourage feared coverage would have a negative impact on public opinion. National television cancelled plans to broadcast the ceremony live.

Mr. Soglo took his oath before Monsignor Isidore de Souza, the Archbishop of Cotonou and chairman of the transitional legislative High Council of the Republic (HCR) which performed the role of constitutional court. Members of the country's first multiparty parliament sworn in Monday, members of Benin's year-old transitional government, local officials and the diplomatic corps attended the 30-minute ceremony witnessed by about 1,000 Beninese. Some onlookers sobbed at the sight of the new president's evident pain. [passage omitted]

Soldiers from the elite Red Beret commandos responsible for the president's personal protection surrounded the hotel and lined the city's two main roads. Workers were given the day off.

The ceremony marked the end of the transition period during which Mr. Soglo led an interim government as prime minister. The transition process has been hailed around the world as a model for other African countries experiencing similar political change. The last reaction came from U.S. President George Bush, who on Tuesday congratulated the Beninese people for peacefully and resolutely adopting a democratic process.

Returns With 'Improved' Health*AB0304211591 Cotonou Domestic Service in French
1930 GMT 3 Apr 91*

[Excerpts] President-elect Nicéphore Soglo has returned to Cotonou following a one-week trip to Paris. He will be sworn in tomorrow as president of the Republic by the chairman of the High Council of the Republic, Monsignor Isidore de Souza. The ceremony will take place at the PLM Aledjo Hotel.

Nicéphore Soglo arrived at 1510 [1410 GMT] at the Cotonou-Cadjehou International Airport on board a special aircraft belonging to the French Ministerial Air Transport Company. He was welcomed by members of the government, the National Assembly, and crowds of militants—militants who are visibly impatient to see the new president take up his functions and who greeted Nicéphore Soglo's return with placards which read: We Wish Good Health to President Soglo; Welcome Back Home, President of the New Deal. In addition to the placards, there was also drumming and singing. [passage omitted]

The president, whose state of health has improved considerably, disembarked smiling broadly. I was treated remarkably, Nicéphore Soglo stated before leaving for his residence:

[Begin Soglo recording] I was treated quite remarkably at the Val-de-Grace Hospital. They diligently attacked the biggest problem, namely, the typhoid fever. And now they are taking care of the reeducation of the [words indistinct] [end recording]

Burkina Faso**Compaore Message to Sierra Leone Denies Attack***AB0404085691 Ouagadougou Domestic Service
in French 0700 GMT 4 Apr 91*

[Text] Yesterday, Captain Blaise Compaore, chairman of the Popular Front, sent a message to his Sierra Leonean counterpart, Joseph Momoh. The message was in reaction to Mr. Momoh's accusation that Burkina Faso was involved in a so-called attack by Charles Taylor's soldiers against localities in the east of Sierra Leone. In his message, Capt. Compaore denied the accusation saying it could frustrate the peace efforts made in Bamako and Lome.

The head of state also sent another message to His Excellency Dawda Jawara, president of The Gambia and current chairman of the Economic Community of West African States. In this message, the chairman of the Popular Front expressed surprise at the accusation and called on Sir Dawda Jawara to echo Burkina's denial.

New 'Anti-Imperialist' Party Formed

AB0404144091 Ouagadougou Domestic Service
in French 1300 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] A new political party has been created. The party, known as the Burkinabe Socialist Bloc or BSB in short, sent its manifesto to the *SIDWAYA* newspaper yesterday. Its motto is: Action and victory in bloc. The BSB explains that as a progressive, anti-imperialist, and revolutionary party, its struggle will adopt the following goals:

Restoring the Burkinabe people's confidence in their destiny to enable them to take charge of their own future; fighting oppression, exploitation, corruption, and all other social evils; and last, asserting the identity and diversity of the Burkinabe people.

The party, which was created on 25 December 1990, has as its secretary general Comrade Ernest Nongma Ouedraogo, police inspector and minister of territorial administration and security from 1984 to 1987.

Ghana

PNDC Announces 'Shakeup' at CDR Secretariat

AB0404095091 Accra Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] The PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council] has announced a shakeup at the National Secretariat of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution, CDR's. An official statement issued today said Mr. Hudu Yahaya, PNDC secretary for trade and tourism, has been given additional responsibility for the CDR's and will be assisted by three deputy secretaries, including two new appointees. They are Mr. Sam Gariba, who retains his position; Mrs. Cecilia Johnson; and Mr. Kofi Poturphy, both of whom will perform their new duties in addition to their responsibilities as general secretary of the 31 December Women's Movement, and director of operations of the National Mobilization Program, respectively. Mr. (Danabu Daku) has been reassigned to the Ministry of Trade and Tourism as deputy secretary. The changes and appointments take immediate effect.

Guinea Bissau

* Minister of Industry on Economic Liberalization

91AF0788A Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE ECONOMIE in
French Mar 91 pp 244-247

[Interview with Minister of Natural Resources and Industry, Filinto de Barros; place and date not given: "The Challenge of a Liberated Industry"]

[Text] Filinto de Barros is one of the two hussars of the PAIGC [African Party for the Independence of Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde]—the other one is his colleague at the Ministry of Economy and Finance, Manuel dos

Santos—who led the fight in 1986, at the fourth PAIGC Congress, to start their country on the road to free enterprise. Alone against their fellow members, they had to face repeated attacks from party hardliners. The very same men who still oppose multiparty democracy. But the first victory of Barros and Dos Santos was to win President Vieira, a man of constant insight and openness, over to their point of view.

As minister of natural resources and industry, Filinto de Barros is one of the young Guineans who, in 1964, gave up university studies to go underground, to serve the PAIGC in its struggle against Portuguese colonialism. A third-year student of electronic engineering, he never completed the last two years of his curriculum. "At the time," he maintains, "what seemed essential to us was to make a commitment and fight for our country's independence." Already in 1976, two years after independence, he was appointed secretary of state to the presidency. Two years later, in 1978, he became Guinea-Bissau's ambassador to Lisbon. Not for long though; after the coup of 14 November 1980, he became minister of information and culture. After that, he was minister of justice before becoming minister of natural resources and industry. Filinto de Barros is presented as one of the country's political personalities that have been in the forefront of the struggle for the political and economic liberalization started by the PAIGC. He is a man with very clear political insight and ideas on these subjects, and one whose outspokenness often surprises even his colleagues in the government. While fully committed to the privatization of the economy, he is still keenly aware of the risks of an economic takeover by large foreign groups. For instance, he personally opposes the privatization of Dicol, a state-owned fuel import and distribution company, as long as it enjoys a monopoly position.

"We don't want to replace a state monopoly with a private foreign monopoly," he said. In the interview he gave us, he explained what is at stake in the country's opening to multiparty democracy and in the current economic policy. He also analyzed the prerequisites for the implementation of a local industry.

[De Barros] Our determination to open the country to multiparty democracy and to democratize political life within the very PAIGC coincides with the political changes that are to be seen all over the world. By committing itself to such openness, Guinea-Bissau chooses a political model that should promote its economic development. What matters for us today is to achieve economic development. We are a poor country and we don't want to remain poor.

[JEUNE AFRIQUE ECONOMIE] Most of the country's economic officials believe that political liberalization is a

must in order to succeed with economic liberalization. Isn't that a way to limit the stakes of multiparty democracy?

[De Barros] I don't think so. We sincerely mean what we say. We began with economic liberalization. But I believe that we should ask ourselves what role the single-party system played in this country. We fought a war of liberation. It was the PAIGC that led the war. Thanks to it, we could unite all forces against the colonialists. After the war, we had to build a state and a nation. We chose to do so under a single-party regime, relying on the party that had led the struggle. During the war, most of our cadres were trained in a specific ideological context that reflected the spirit in which the struggle developed. We fought the war at first for nationalistic reasons. In the sixties, this ideology was based on the necessity to liberate the country.

[JEUNE AFRIQUE ECONOMIE] Has that ideology become obsolete?

[De Barros] I cannot say that it is no longer relevant. We consciously chose an approach that aimed to develop the country and that was based on the necessity to liberate it. In a word, this was a leftist ideology. The people who fought, in particular the intellectuals who gave up their studies to join the underground, tended to respond to such socialistic ideas.

[JEUNE AFRIQUE ECONOMIE] Among the country's leaders, you are perceived as one of those whose political and economic views seem to be in line with current changes. Does that mean that there are proponents of the former line within the PAIGC, and that you oppose them?

[De Barros] It is accurate to say that not all accept the current innovations as a matter of course. Not all are in favor of free enterprise in the country. Even when it came to opening up the economy, there was a major confrontation within the party leadership. Many party officials remained on their positions on the former line. They include hardliners who still retain ideological positions. But I believe that even a Marxist should be able to try something new. As far as I am concerned, I make a distinction between those who are Marxists and those who are hardliners. A Marxist who has studied that ideology knows that it must constantly be adapted. Marx wrote in a given society, in a context very different from what we are experiencing today. So many things have changed since then. A true Marxist should be able to try something new.

[JEUNE AFRIQUE ECONOMIE] Were you a Marxist? Are you still a Marxist?

[De Barros] What does that mean, being a Marxist? If you mean someone who has studied Marx's "Das Kapital" and obeys Marxist principles as if they were the Gospel, my answer is no. If you view Marxism as a scientific method to analyze and approach reality and

extract from it elements consonant with a leftist ideology, my answer is yes. I belong to the youth generation of the sixties, and I am still thinking as a man of the left.

[JEUNE AFRIQUE ECONOMIE] But, then, what is your economic liberalism based on? It is quite a paradox to see that many intellectuals of your generation, who were communists, socialists, or Marxists, are now advocating the virtues of capitalism. They have become Keynesians or monetarists. At any rate, they advocate ideas that are common currency in international institutions such as the IMF or the World Bank.

[De Barros] What we stand up for here, in Guinea-Bissau, I don't know whether it's Keynesian, monetarist or something else. We are for free enterprise, period. Why did I choose free enterprise? Quite simply because of the experience I gained in dealing with reality. In this country, we attempted an experiment that was neither Marxist nor communist. We must make that clear, the PAIGC was never a Marxist party. We never officially adopted that ideology. Above all our party was a liberation movement. It includes people who are Marxists, or simply leftists, as I am, and others who are nationalists. You can't say that we were Marxists or against Marxism. Although many officials wished us to make a commitment to Marxism, the fact is that social and economic conditions in our country were not favorable. Our attempt at collectivization and our experiment with state control ended up in disaster. But we also observed the experiments of Eastern socialist countries and analyzed their results. As a former student in a capitalist country, Portugal, I was in a good position to judge socialist countries. In that case too, our verdict was that it was a failure.

[JEUNE AFRIQUE ECONOMIE] Your country's present change of political orientation nearly parallels its change of economic policy in 1986. But if we consider that political opening is taking place in a context marked by international pressure in favor of democracy, we may wonder if it was really wished for here. If it is really sincere. Especially considering that opposition is lacking in congressional debates.

[De Barros] Personally, I believe that it is sincere. I cannot speak for the party. There are many of us. Some are for, some against. But President Nino was very clear. He wanted this opening. I say that, even if there had not been any changes in other countries, we would have done it. The issue of economic liberalization was openly discussed. However, it was not possible to achieve economic liberalization without ending up with political pluralism. Both phenomena are very closely linked. When we decided to liberalize the economy, to allow every individual to invest for himself, when we allowed party cadres to work in the private sector, it meant that there had been a profound sociopolitical and ideological change. Marxists-Leninists talk about the exploitation of man in the economic sector. But we want to change the factors that affect the way the economy works and the nature of the relations it underlies. And, of course, we are

against the exploitation of man. We maintain that the purpose of a private operator is not to exploit workers. That's a major change because, before, all those who wanted to engage in business were suspect. From the moment we accepted the principle of such a change, it became obvious that we couldn't but tend toward a change in the political sector, to implement a new model.

[JEUNE AFRIQUE ECONOMIE] Isn't that a faulty argument, a pseudo-problem that people keep brandishing to justify their refusal of the democratic way?

[De Barros] No, I don't think so. We have serious reasons to be cautious in this respect. Personally, even today I still believe that tribalism is a danger. But we have changed. We believe that we should go forward, even if there is such a risk. The first thing we attempted was openness within the party. Some proposed to transform the party into a forum within which several trends would exist. In order to avoid tribalism. Finally, we reached the conclusion that it would be quite difficult to manage all possible contradictions within a single party.

[JEUNE AFRIQUE ECONOMIE] Many see you as one of those who could play a major role within the party.

[De Barros] I went into politics because I had to, because of the liberation war. But I am not a professional politician. We are going to make a commitment to multiparty democracy; we still need professional politicians. Personally, I believe that I do not have the profile it takes to go along with what you say. I feel I am a technocrat more than a politician.

[JEUNE AFRIQUE ECONOMIE] Curiously enough, in the present context you are mentioned as one of those whose ideas bring them in agreement with the ongoing process. And who, then, would offer the desired party official's profile?

[De Barros] I am very committed to this political liberalization process. Because I believe that the best for us, today, is multiparty democracy. We have completed one stage, that of the first republic. We must now enter the second stage. We must do so in a spirit of openness and sincerity. We must appeal to those in the opposition, work with them to enable all of the country's energies to express themselves. The opposition has a very important part to play. It must be able to play an essential part in parliament.

My experience and my years as a militant have brought me to the conclusion that we need multiparty democracy. Certainly, we have achieved much that is positive until now. But we have also made mistakes. It has been 16 years already. We must resume our quest for legitimacy. Until now, legitimacy meant the liberation struggle. But we cannot go on harping about our liberating the country. Many young people who are going to vote today were five when the war ended. They have nothing to do with that era. We must be capable of going to the people with a modern program, a new program suitable for the current period. If the people agree with

our program, well, so much the better for us. That will be evidence that we still deserve to govern. Multiparty democracy is very much like an adventure, and many people are still afraid of it. They feel that all we do is copy what Europe is doing. Personally, I believe it's best to copy what is positive.

[JEUNE AFRIQUE ECONOMIE] You are a technocrat. Let's talk then about the problems that are within your responsibilities as minister of industry. Industry in this country is almost nonexistent. But it is fashionable to point to the mistakes made in the past and to brandish the current privatization program to summarize the country's industrial policy. However, privatization is not an economic program, and it is also not a guarantee of success. What would you say are the prerequisites for the success of a genuine industrial policy in Guinea-Bissau?

[De Barros] I don't agree with you when you say that, properly speaking, there is no industry here. When we talk about privatization, we mean obviously not just that the state must get out, but also that we should provide conditions favorable to the creation of private industries. There are a few industries that belong to the public sector and that we want to privatize. But the country lacks capital. In this respect, as in many others, we depend on foreign countries.

[JEUNE AFRIQUE ECONOMIE] What will be the priorities of your industrial policy in the next few years?

[De Barros] I believe that one of the main sectors that we should develop is fishing. We have a huge potential in this field. We must work with an eye to processing. Then, we must develop small- and medium-size export industries. Because our domestic market is particularly narrow. In addition, the people's purchasing power is not high. We must take advantage of our low labor costs to produce and export at reduced prices.

[JEUNE AFRIQUE ECONOMIE] There is much talk about the creation of a free zone; the investment code is being worked out. In what sectors could this policy of investment incentives yield its first results?

[De Barros] To promote industries that will serve to develop the country, we must consider raw material processing. We have cashew nuts—we are one of the leading world producers. We can process cashews here. We have lumber; we can develop the lumber industry. Fisheries, as I said, offer a huge potential. I would also mention construction materials, mechanics, and agribusiness. We have a lot of fruit. We must consider developing fruit processing.

[JEUNE AFRIQUE ECONOMIE] What are the natural resources on which you can rely? What are your hopes in this respect?

[De Barros] Unfortunately, we must acknowledge that prospects in this respect are not bright. We had many hopes that did not materialize. Today, we are more cautious, particularly as far as oil is concerned, because

we made great efforts to prospect. Only recently, we made four drillings that were not conclusive. That was a big disappointment. However, we shall continue prospecting because seismic data are excellent. Experts assure us that there are significant clues and that offshore oil should be found along our shores.

As far as bauxite is concerned, our deposits contain low-grade ore. Besides, bauxite mining would require considerable investments, especially in infrastructures. For the moment, potential investors are unwilling to take risks. And the state from now on intends to stay away from major projects of this type. Because we do not have the means to implement them. They would only increase our debt, and we would have no guarantee of being able to sell our production on the market at a suitable price. Today, the raw materials market is most uncertain. The situation is not any better for phosphates. We have rather large deposits of a very good grade. But we have not yet found a group ready to process our production. France helped us with the feasibility studies. The conclusion of the study was rather favorable, but the French dropped the project. All the financing we devoted to the project study ended up being useless. This is one of the paradoxes of cooperation.

[JEUNE AFRIQUE ECONOMIE] In the context of the economic liberalization implemented by the government, prices are now deregulated, except for fuel prices. Why retain regulation in this sector?

[De Barros] At present, Dicol, which is a state-owned company, has a monopoly. That's why we continue to set fuel prices. But they take all costs into consideration. It's not an administrative price. It's just that we don't want it to fluctuate like the prices of other products. Because Dicol's monopoly position exposes us to the risk of speculation. In Guinea-Bissau, the rate of inflation is very high. We are not always in a position to supply the market properly. Some speculators take advantage of this to raise prices. Our position is clear. Until there is a second company on the market—a private company of course—the state will continue to set prices in order to prevent speculation. Because fighting inflation is a major factor of our economic policy.

[JEUNE AFRIQUE ECONOMIE] Is it possible for fuel distributors to set up business here?

[De Barros] Of course. There is even another company called Petromar. This was created by a private local group—the Carlo Gomes group—and a Portuguese group. Petromar imports fuel, but for the moment it sells only to foreign fishing boats that pay in foreign currencies. However, its operating license provides, among other things, that it can sell on the local market.

[JEUNE AFRIQUE ECONOMIE] Dicol is not on the list of the companies to be privatized. Does that mean that the state wishes to maintain its control over the oil sector?

[De Barros] I personally opposed the privatization of Dicol because it still enjoys a monopoly position. We live in a country whose economy is still very frail. We cannot afford to shift from a state monopoly to a private monopoly. In privatizing we must prevent such a shift. Because the domestic private sector has very little capital for the time being. Hence the risk of an economic takeover by foreigners. But when foreigners come here they have only one concern—which after all is a legitimate one: to make profits. Developing the country is not one of their priorities. When we have one or two other distributors, privatizing Dicol will no longer be a problem. I believe that private management is always better than public management.

[JEUNE AFRIQUE ECONOMIE] Are there Guineans capable of launching themselves into industry, and what kind of support can they expect from the government?

[De Barros] There are people here who are capable of managing businesses. Most of them are young executives. But they don't have capital. Then, there are people who have some financial means. Most of them are merchants. Most of them are ill-prepared for the industry. This is our major problem. As minister of industry, I favor a type of privatization in which the businesses sold go to people who are able to manage them.

[JEUNE AFRIQUE ECONOMIE] This country lacks the institutional and financial instruments required to support industrial projects. Isn't that a major handicap?

[De Barros] You are quite right. This is one of the obstacles that our industrial policy must overcome. We have no financial institutions to develop our industry. In this respect, we are quite dependent on foreign lenders. One of our projects aims to create an institution to finance productive projects and, in this connection, we are negotiating with Swedish and U.S. lenders and with the EEC. The idea is to set up a Guinean investment company. It has not been implemented yet because we are waiting for foreign investors to provide the expected financing. Obviously, dealing with lenders is not easy. They come and go. They say yes today, and the next day they set new conditions. Cooperation is something difficult, you know.

Liberia

Parties Respond to NPFL Government Proposals

AB0404130491 Monrovia Radio ELBC in English
0900 GMT 4 Apr 91

[Text] The ongoing all-Liberia national conference continues today at the Unity Conference Center in Virginia, outside Monrovia. At today's plenary session, delegates are expected to hear the responses of the National Patriotic Front to [words indistinct] of the (?political) parties to the formation of the executive branch of the interim government of national unity.

Meanwhile, following consultations among themselves, Liberia's political parties have advanced to the plenary session of the all-Liberia national conference [word indistinct] response to the proposals made to the conference by the National Patriotic Front [NPFL]. Last week, the NPFL proposed, among other things, to the conference that a three-member triumvirate council of national unity be established, and that one member shall be nominated by the NPFL and another member nominated by the political parties. The third, the NPFL proposed, will be a Liberian of credibility and distinction who can be mutually agreed upon by the first two members endorsed by the council.

In their response read by Mr. Bacchus Matthews of the United People's Party and Mr. Carlos Smith of the Unity Party, the political parties have agreed in principle to the proposals with some modifications. However, the parties have proposed that rather than being called the council of national unity, it should be called the executive council.

As the means of enhancing lasting peace and unity in Liberia and making the interim government broad-based, the parties proposed that the candidate for the third position of the council be nominated by the Independent National Patriotic Front of Liberia. The parties also proposed that the executive council shall have a presiding officer who shall be called the chairman and shall preside over coequals to be called cochairmen. The nominee shall be the chairman who shall serve as head of state and shall be barred from contesting the October 1991 general elections. Apart from the chairman, the political parties say they agreed to the NPFL's proposal that any member of the council could run for office at some future date as long as the member resigns his position prior to the start of the campaigning period. The objectives or functions of the executive council as proposed by the NPFL are also being accepted by the political parties except for the period of planning and conducting general elections which the parties say shall be on 15 October this year.

Johnson Urges Adherence to Cease-Fire Accord

*AB0404134091 Monrovia Radio ELBC in English
0900 GMT 4 Apr 91*

[Text] The leader of the Independent National Patriotic Front of Liberia [INPFL], Brigadier General Prince Johnson, has appealed to the former warring factions to adhere to the cease-fire agreement signed in Lome last February if they truly want to see Liberia return to normal. Gen. Johnson said if the present all-Liberia national conference must be successful, the first thing is to avoid any act that could stall the ongoing peace process.

Addressing a news conference yesterday at his Caldwell base, the INPFL leader called on the leader of the NPFL [National Patriotic Front of Liberia], Mr. Charles Taylor, to let the will of the Liberian people prevail, adding the guns that liberate must not rule. He said the

cease-fire agreement of which the former warring factions are signatories carries the ECOWAS [Economic Community of West African State] peace plan for Liberia and, as such, must be implemented in full. Field Marshall Johnson used the occasion to reaffirm his organization's commitment to all plans initiated by ECOWAS through ECOMOG [ECOWAS Cease-Fire Monitoring Group] and called on Mr. Taylor to put his political ambitions aside and contribute to the present peace process.

Meanwhile, Brig. Gen. Prince Johnson is appealing to ECOMOG to provide the groundwork through which the factions could (?effectively) coordinate the full and effective implementation of the ongoing peace plan.

Niger

Saudi Armed Forces Commander Begins Visit 1 Apr

*AB0304144091 Niamey Domestic Service in French
1900 GMT 1 Apr 91*

[Text] Lieutenant General Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud of Saudi Arabia arrived in Niamey this afternoon. The commander of the Joint Forces in the Gulf came to congratulate the Government and people of Niger for their participation in freeing Kuwait from Iraqi occupation. During his stay, which will end on Wednesday, 3 April, Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud will visit the Tondibiah Military Training Institute and the National Museum.

Departs; Arrives in Senegal

*AB0404103491 Niamey Domestic Service in French
0545 GMT 4 Apr 91*

[Excerpt] After a visit to our country, Saudi General Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, commander in chief of the Arab-Islamic anti-Iraqi coalition forces, arrived yesterday afternoon in Dakar for a short visit to Senegal. Lieutenant General Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, who is heading a large delegation, was received in audience early yesterday evening by Mr. Abdou Diouf, Senegalese head of state. [passage omitted]

Sierra Leone

Liberian NPFL Rebels Seize Border Areas

*AB0304150691 Paris AFP in English 1456 GMT
3 Apr 91*

[Text] Freetown, April 3 (AFP)—Liberian rebels have launched attacks across the Sierra Leone border and set up bases there Wednesday, African diplomats said here.

They said rebels of the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) crossed the border at Mano River union bridge and seized several areas in the Pujehun District 320 kilometres (200 miles) south of here, including the

Makpele mining company and the village of Gohun. They said clashes were continuing between Sierra Leone forces and rebels in this area and in neighbouring villages.

The diplomats said the rebels crossed the river in six boats late Tuesday evening and launched their attack at midnight. The Sierra Leone Army has issued an urgent appeal for reinforcements.

Army Seeking 'Reinforcements'

AB0304161491 Paris AFP in English 1608 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Excerpts] Freetown, April 3 (AFP)—Liberian rebels have launched attacks across the Sierra Leone border and set up bases there Wednesday, African diplomats said here. [passage omitted]

The Sierra Leone Army has issued an urgent appeal for reinforcements. One diplomat said the Sierra Leone Army's weapons were "no match for those of the rebels."

The sources said the military was commandeering a number of private vehicles in the area to take reinforcements to the frontline.

Relief organisations with headquarters in Freetown confirmed reports of fighting but said they have not yet instructed their staff on the ground to pull out.

Reports from the eastern town of Koindu, where Sierra Leone troops killed at least 19 suspected rebels in weekend clashes, said the relief organization Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF-Doctors Without Borders) evacuated its staff from the area because of intense fighting.

According to the diplomats, security officials in Freetown have seized a large quantity of weapons after searching homes of several Liberian refugees. They said many refugees, believed to be NPFL sympathizers, were taken in for questioning late Tuesday.

More than 200,000 Liberians have taken refuge in Sierra Leone from fighting (?in) tribal violence in their country's 15-month civil war. An official at the Liberian Embassy confirmed here Wednesday that arrests have been made but declined to comment further.

There has not been any official statement on the wave of arrests, but unofficial sources said the police had acted on statements made by many of the captured rebels.

Momoh on Plans for Multiparty Democracy

AB0304212791 London BBC World Service in English 1709 GMT 3 Apr 91

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Sierra Leoneans are probably still reeling from last week's events in which a constitutional commission recommended that the country should return to a multiparty system of politics. President Momoh himself

immediately welcomed it, saying that during the commission's work, he remained silent, but really thought Sierra Leone should be a multiparty democracy all along. So how soon will it all happen? General elections were scheduled for May and at one time, there were hopes they would be multiparty. On the line to Freetown, Robin White asked President Momoh what was the next step:

[Begin recording] [Momoh] Well, in fact, having received the report, the next and immediate step is to take the matter to Cabinet and once we discuss it in Cabinet, then we should be able to come out with a government statement outlining all the other constitutional steps that ought to be followed.

[White] Will you have any problems in pushing it through Cabinet?

[Momoh] Well, up to this point, judging from the feedback after my acceptance speech last week Thursday, its feedback from the diplomatic corps, the civilian population, and even my colleagues in Cabinet, and even parliamentarians, all who have spoken to me are very, very positive, and I think everybody seems to be in favor.

[White] So there will be no problem with it going through Cabinet?

[Momoh] I do not think so, I do not think so at all. I think any member of Parliament or any member of Cabinet who tries to be difficult over an issue like this will find himself virtually going against the tide.

[White] Will you fire him?

[Momoh] Well, I do not think I will have to. Perhaps the people will.

[White] Now presuming that Cabinet does accept the recommendations of the commission, how soon can the Constitution of Sierra Leone be changed?

[Momoh] Well, it is very difficult to put a timeframe on that one, but I assure you that we will try to do it as expeditiously as possible. We will speed it up as much as we can.

[White] Now there are general elections scheduled in Sierra Leone for May. Can you change the Constitution before those elections?

[Momoh] Well, from the look of things, I have just gone through my own copy of the Constitutional Review Committee report and from the look of things, I do not seem to see the possibility of holding the elections in May. The elections may have to come a little bit later.

[White] So you will change the Constitution before you have elections?

[Momoh] Well, you see, I am usually very cautious and careful when I talk. I do not want to prejudge any issue, because, you see, we were talking about the matter going

to Parliament; I am talking about the constitutional procedure now. Well, I am talking about the matter going to Parliament, thereafter to a referendum. So I do not want to prejudge the issue here. But I do not seem to foresee any difficulty at all.

[White] So it looks as though the next general elections in Sierra Leone will be fought on a multiparty basis?

[Momoh] It may well be.

[White] Now must there not be quite a lot of people within your own party who will resist all this?

[Momoh] I do not think so. I do not think so. You see, in this game of politics, I think it will always be sensible for those of us in prominent positions, in positions of authority, to watch the way the wind is blowing, and if you are with the wind then you are not facing any problem. In this particular case, it would seem the vast majority of the people have settled for a multiparty system. I am sure it will be sure foolhardiness on the part of any one of us to attempt to stand against that.

[White] Yes, but you yourself might not have anything to lose in a multiparty election, but a lot of people within your party might have a lot to lose.

[Momoh] Oh, yes; but in fact you are talking comparatively, you are talking about a few people as against the entire population of Sierra Leone. So it will not so much be what is going to happen to that comparatively smaller number. I think our greater concern should be for the vast majority of the people, the entire population.

[White] Now as and when elections do take place on a multiparty basis, will you allow any international observers to observe those elections?

[Momoh] No. I don't think to see anything wrong with that at all. In fact, we do not have a thing to hide. I mean

if it comes to that, we will be quite prepared to let them come and see what is happening.

[White] Would you yourself invite them in?

[Momoh] If it is necessary, why not?

[White] Would you yourself be standing for [word indistinct] in multiparty elections?

[Momoh] Well, you see, I still have some time to complete my present term of office and I think it will depend on the mood of the people. If there is proof that they still want me, then I will, but if I sense that I do not stand the chance, I think it will be by far more honorable to bow out.

[White] But would [words indistinct] that you would just stand for one term, or could you envisage yourself standing for two terms?

[Momoh] No, that one again I do not want to prejudge. I think we will wait until when the times comes.

[White] Finally, Mr President, could I ask you about your health? You have, I understand, not been too well. How is your health at the moment?

[Momoh] Oh yes, I went through a [words indistinct] late January, early February, but I'm fully recovered now and no problem at all.

[White] Could I ask you what the problem was?

[Momoh] Well, I think it was just the usual tiredness. You know, I think when you work too much, you overwork yourself naturally. It gets to the point where the system says: Enough is enough

[White] Are you having to work less hard now?

[Momoh] Well, I've cut down my working hours, yes.

[White] On your doctor's advice?

[Momoh] Exactly. [end recording]

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DATE FILMED

8 April 1991

